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Presbyterian Church in the
U.S.A.
Records of the Presbyterian
Church in the United States
of America
: embracing the minutes of
the General

RECORDS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EMBRACING THE

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTERY AND GENERAL SYNOD

1706–1788

TOGETHER WITH AN INDEX

AND THE

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1766–1775

PHILADELPHIA
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
AND SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK
1319 WALNUT STREET
1904

PREFACE.

THESE Records embrace the following important documents connected with the early history of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.,

Minutes of the General Presbytery from A. D. 1706 to 1716;

Minutes of the General Synod from A. D. 1717 to 1758;

Minutes of the Synod of New York from A. D. 1745 to 1758; and

Minutes of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia from A. D. 1758 to 1788.

The earlier editions were issued in 1841 and 1856, but without an Index. The General Synod in 1786 gave expression to the desirability of an Index to the manuscript records, but there is no evidence that it ever was prepared. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly recently brought the matter to the attention of the Assembly, and he was authorized to have the Index prepared and published. Through the kind co-operation of the Board of Publication and Sunday-School Work, this new edition containing the Index is issued, with the addition of the Minutes of the General Convention for Religious Liberty, etc , held by delegates from the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church and the General Association of the Churches of Connecticut, from 1766 to 1775. The volume is a most valuable portion of the Historical Records of our Church.

WM. H. ROBERTS,
Stated Clerk.

ADVERTISEMENT.

For several years past the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, have adopted measures for the full and complete publication of their minutes, including those of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, during the period that it was the only Presbyterian judicatory in the country; and of the Synods of New York and Philadelphia, during the time that they, separated or united, were the highest judicatories known to the Church; thus securing, as far as these records might embody it, a connected history of the Presbyterian Church, from its earliest organization in this country, to the present time.

Various difficulties have occurred to defeat the execution of this very desirable object; and in May, 1840, the General Assembly directed their Stated Clerk to promote the publication, if practicable, through the agency of the Presbyterian Board of Publication. The subject was accordingly proposed, and the Executive Committee of the Board, with great unanimity, resolved to adventure at least on the publication of a preliminary volume, embracing the earlier records until the period of the organization of the General Assembly; with the intention of completing the plan, provided the demand for the work should justify them in incurring the heavy expense of such an enterprise.

The subscriber, being both Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and Editor of the Board of Publication, has been entrusted with the preparation of the Minutes for the press. In fulfilment of the duties of his appointment, he has thought it advisable to preface the Records with a very brief introduction, and to connect the several parts by some explanatory remarks.

Among the records of the earliest Presbytery and Synod, is a letter-book,

containing, besides copies of a part of the correspondence of these bodies, certain memoranda which should properly have been inserted in the body of the minutes. The letters and the memoranda have been appended as notes to the minutes under their proper dates, thus giving the history more fulness and continuity.

It must be a subject of gratulation in the Church, that by this publication the early records of the Church, which were in danger of perishing, have been secured in a permanent form; and it is to be hoped, that the eager demand for this volume will lead to the completion of the plan, by the publication in full of all the Minutes of the General Assembly to the present time.

WILLIAM M. ENGLES.

PHILADELPHIA, *January*, 1841.

RECORDS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

PRELIMINARY SKETCH.

THE Presbyterian Church assumed its ecclesiastical form in the United States, at a date posterior to the establishment of the Puritans, Roman Catholics, Quakers, and Episcopalians. It is to be presumed that individuals of this denomination, in the spirit of personal enterprise, had emigrated at an early date of the settlement of the country, and were scattered throughout the Colonies; but they were in no place sufficiently numerous to associate in a congregational, much less in a presbyterial capacity. The Puritans of New England, and the Quakers of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey, had emigrated from religious motives; and as they wished to preserve their distinctive religious character in a land far removed from the vexatious evils, to which persecution had subjected them in the place of their birth, they came in large numbers, and selected their residence with a view to peaceful religious association. The cause which principally influenced them, had as yet exerted no power over the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ireland. In the peaceful enjoyment of their religious rights, they had no inducement, or rather were compelled by no necessity, to flee to the uncultivated wilds of America.

Soon after the restoration of Charles II., however, the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ireland were subjected to a persecution, which increased in virulence in proportion to the resistance which was opposed to a corrupt monarch's will. The subversion of the cherished religion of a nation, and the substitution of another, which, for many considerations, was particularly obnoxious, could not be accomplished without resorting to the most inhuman proscriptions and banishments. These attempts to impose Episcopacy on Presbyterians, which were relentlessly pursued until the accession of William III., rendered the provinces of America a desirable refuge for those who could not, without peril of life, cherish their religious preferences in the place of their nativity.

The first churches established in this country under Presbyterian organization were situated in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In these provinces religious liberty was secured by the original proprietors. The following may be considered as an agreeable specimen of the temper

which characterized the laws of these provinces on the subject of religion. It is an enactment in relation to Pennsylvania, and is in these words:—"That all persons living in this province, who confess and acknowledge one Almighty and Eternal God to be the Creator, Upholder, and Ruler of the world, and that hold themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and justly in civil society, shall in no ways be molested or prejudiced for their religious persuasion or practice, in matters of faith and worship; nor shall they be compelled, at any time, to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place, or ministry, whatever." This recognition of religious liberty had great influence upon those who had recently experienced the horrors of intolerance, in selecting these provinces for their permanent residence.

In tracing the history of the first societies which were established for religious worship by these emigrants in a new country, and at a period so remote, there will necessarily be a difficulty in ascertaining the precise circumstances under which they were founded. In some instances the sparseness of the population, or the poverty of the people, induced persons of different persuasions to unite their strength, and congregate without an immediate reference to denominational organization. This, however, was soon found to be inconvenient, and the plan was abandoned as soon as practicable. As accurately as it can now be ascertained, the first Presbyterian church in this country was organized in Philadelphia, about the year 1698; and it is probable that the churches at Snowhill, Rehoboth, Monokin, and Wicomico, on the eastern shore of Maryland, were organized about the same period.

When the ministers who harmonized in their views of Christian doctrine and ecclesiastical government, had become sufficiently numerous, they constituted themselves into a Presbytery. In consequence of the irrecoverable loss of the first leaf of the Minutes of this body, we are unable to ascertain the precise date of their ecclesiastical association; but judging from the first date which appears on page 3d of these Records, it must have been about the beginning of the year 1705. This Presbytery of Philadelphia consisted of *seven* ministers, viz: Francis McKemie, John Hampton, George McNish, Samuel Davis, all, from the best accounts, emigrants from Ireland, and exercising their ministry on the eastern shore of Maryland; Nathaniel Taylor, from Scotland, and settled in Upper Marlborough; John Wilson, also from Scotland, settled in New Castle; and Jedediah Andrews, from New England, and settled in Philadelphia. To these may be added John Boyd, who was the first person ordained by the new Presbytery, in 1706, and settled in Freehold, New Jersey.

The Minutes of this body, as being the first Presbyterian judicatory in the country, stand first in the order of publication. The abruptness of the commencement is to be attributed to the loss of the first leaf of the records, to which we have before referred.

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PART FIRST.

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA.

FROM THE YEAR 1706 TO THE YEAR 1717.

1706.

—*De regimine ecclesiæ*, which being heard was approved of and sustained. He gave in also his thesis to be considered of against next *sederunt.*

Sederunt 2*d.* 10 *bris.* 27.

Post preces sederunt, Mr. Francis McKemie, Moderator, Messrs. Jedediah Andrews, and John Hampton, Ministers.

Mr. John Boyd performed the other parts of his trials, viz. preached a popular sermon on John i. 12; defended his thesis; gave satisfaction as to his skill in the languages, and answered to extemporary questions; all which were approved of and sustained.

Appointed his ordination to be on the next Lord's day, the 29th inst., which was accordingly performed in the public meeting house of this place, before a numerous assembly; and the next day he had the certificate of his ordination.

1707.

March 22*d*, 1707.

At a meeting of the Presbytery held at Philadelphia, *post preces sederunt*, Messrs. John Wilson, Jedediah Andrews, Nathaniel Taylor, George McNish, *Ministers.* Joseph Yard, William Smith, John Gardener, James Stoddard, *Elders.*

Master John Wilson, by plurality of votes was chosen Moderator, Mr. George McNish was chosen Clerk to the Presbytery.

This day a letter sent by Mr. Samuel Davis to the Presbytery, was presented to them; it being moved by one of the members that the letter might be read, it was accordingly read and considered, and Mr. Davis his reasons for excusing his absence from this and the preceding meeting of the Presbytery, were *not* sustained by the Presbytery.

Ordered that the next dyet of the Presbytery be held upon Tuesday, at four o'clock, in the afternoon.

Mr. Francis McKemie and Mr. John Wilson, are appointed to preach upon Tuesday, upon the subjects appointed them at the last Presbytery, from Heb. i. 1, 2 v., by way of exercise and addition.

March 25*th.*

Post preces sederunt, John Wilson, &c. This day Mr. Francis McKemie and Mr. John Wilson delivered their discourses according to appointment, and were approved by the Presbytery.

Ordered, that a letter be writ, and sent to Mr. Samuel Davis in the name of the Presbytery, by Master John Wilson, requiring him to be present at our next meeting in this place.

Appointed that the letters sent from the people of Snow Hill in Somerset, be read before the Presbytery.

The letters were accordingly read, and their contents were duly considered by the Presbytery. And whereas, the aforesaid people do by their representatives and letters earnestly address the Presbytery for their joynt concurrence, and assistance in prosecuting their call to Mr. John Hampton, that he may undertake the work of the Ministry among them, as their settled and proper Minister and Pastor.

Ordered by the Presbytery, that the call be sent to Mr. Hampton, by the foresaid people, and also, the other paper containing their subscriptions for his encouragement to undertake the work of the Ministry among them, be given to Mr. Hampton to peruse and consider, which accordingly were given him.

Ordered, That whereas Mr. Hampton, after his receiving the call to him from the people at Snowhill, gave several satisfactory reasons, why he could not at this time comply with it; that the said Mr. Hampton may have the call and the paper of subscription continued in his hands for his further perusal, till the next Presbytery.

Ordered further, in this affair, that a letter be sent in name of the Presbytery to the people of Snowhill, to encourage their endeavours for a settled minister among them, and that Mr. Nathaniel Taylor write the letter expressing the mind of the Presbytery, which was accordingly done.

Appointed that the Presbytery meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, and that Mr. Andrews and Mr. John Boyd, prepare some overtures to be considered by the Presbytery, for propagating religion in their respective congregations.

March 26th. Post preces sederunt, the moderator, &c.

Ordered by the Presbytery, that Mr. Francis McKemie write to Scotland, to Mr. Alexander Coldin, minister of Oxam, of the Presbytery of ——, and to give an account of the state and circumstances of the dissenting Presbyterian interest among the people in and about Lewistown, and to signify the earnest desires of that people, for the said Mr. Coldin's coming over to be their minister; and that Mr. McKemie make report of his diligence herein against the next Presbytery.

The Presbytery appoints Mr. John Wilson to write to the Presbytery of ——, to the effect aforesaid, and make report of his care herein against the next Presbytery.

Overtures proposed to the Presbytery and agreed upon, for propagating the interest of religion:

First, That every minister in their respective congregations, read and comment upon a chapter of the Bible every Lord's day, as discretion and circumstances of time, place, &c., will admit.

Second over: That it be recommended to every minister of the Presbytery to set on foot and encourage private Christian societies.

Third over: That every minister of the Presbytery supply neighbouring desolate places where a minister is wanting, and opportunity of doing good offers.

The Presbytery do appoint Mr. Jedediah Andrews and Mr. Nathaniel Taylor, to prepare a Presbyterial sermon, each of them to be delivered against the next Presbytery. Mr. Andrews to discourse from Heb. i. chap. 3. v. the *first*, and Mr. Taylor from *latter* part of the verse.

Appointed that the Presbytery meet upon the first Tuesday of April, 1708, at Philadelphia, and this meeting was concluded.

1708.

May the 18th.

At a meeting of the Presbytery at Philadelphia, 1708, *post preces sederunt*, *Ministers*, Messrs. Samuel Davis, John Wilson, Jedediah Andrews, Nathaniel

Taylor, John Hampton, John Boyd. *Elders*, Joseph Yard, —— Bell, John Gray.

Mr. Samuel Davis was chosen Moderator.

Ordered by the Presbytery, that Mr. Jedediah Andrews deliver his Presbyterial exercise to-morrow at 10 of the clock, in the meeting house; and that Mr. Nathaniel Taylor deliver his on Friday next, at 10 of the clock in the morning.

This day was read before the Presbytery, a letter sent by the people of and about White Clay Creek, in New Castle County, importing their desire and petition to the Presbytery, to have the ordinances of the gospel administered with more convenience and nearness to the place of their abode, for the greater advantage and ease to their several families, promising withal due encouragement to the minister that shall be appointed thus to supply them.

Ordered by the Presbytery that this letter be read at the next session, tomorrow afternoon, and that another letter from some persons about Apoquinimy be considered against the next dyet of the Presbytery at the time aforesaid.

This day was also read a letter from several persons in the town of New Castle, wherein they crave that the people of White Clay Creek may not be suffered to set up a meeting house in the country, that their meeting house and congregation in New Castle may not be damaged by this rupture of their fellow members of White Clay Creek.

Ordered that this letter be considered by the next session of the Presbytery.

May 19, *Sessione* 2*da. post preces, &c.*

Mr. Davis satisfied the Presbytery for his absence the former year.

Ordered by the Presbytery that there be a letter sent to the people of Snow Hill, requiring their faithfulness and care in collecting the tobacco promised by subscription to Mr. Hampton.

Ordered that Mr. Wilson, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Hampton, speak with Mr. Joseph Smith, and the people of Cohanzy, about his settlement and ordination.

Mr. Wilson, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Hampton, made their report, what it is Mr. Smith and the people of Cohanzy desire, viz: That some might be appointed to wait upon Mr. Smith and the people of Cohanzy.

Ordered by the Presbytery that, upon the desire of Mr. Smith and the people of Cohanzy, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Boyd shall wait upon them at Cohanzy, in order to his ordination, and the people are to present them a call to the said Mr. Smith.

The trials appointed by the Presbytery to Mr. Smith, *an fides solum justificet*, for sermon, John vi. 37, last part of the verse. Mr. Andrews to be moderator, and the people are to give three weeks advertisement.

Ordered that Mr. McNish and Mr. Davis attend Mr. Hampton in the day of his inauguration, and Mr. Davis shall preceed. [preside?]

Ordered that the Presbytery adjourn till Thursday, at 9 o'clock, forenoon.

May 20, *Sessione* 3*tia. post preces, &c.*

Mr. McKemie did, according to his order, write to Mr. Coldin, in Oxam, for coming over to the American parts.

It is further recommended to Mr. Andrews, to take it into his serious consideration of reading a chapter and making a comment on the same.

The *first* overture is complied with by the rest of the ministers.

The *second* overture in part practised and hoped in time to be fully complied with.

The *third* overture complied with and practised by the ministers.

Mr. Andrews delivered the Presbyterial exercise appointed and was sustained.

Ordered by the Presbytery, that the time appointed for their meeting be in no wise prorogued for the future.

Ordered, That the people of New Castle and the country, should not be divided by setting up two separate meetings.

Ordered, that Mr. Wilson preach one Sabbath in New Castle and the other in the country; that Mr. Wilson, once in a month, on a week day, preach to the people in Apoquinimy; and Mr. Hampton is to preach to them as he goes home, and Mr. Davis is to preach to them at his return to the next Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton write a letter to the people at White Clay Creek in answer to their's.

Ordered, That Mr. McNish write to New Castle, in answer to their letter.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton return a verbal answer to the people of Apoquinimy, in answer to their letter.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews, Mr. McNish, and Mr. Boyd, read over the letters from Woodbridge concerning the differences betwixt that people and Mr. Wade, and make a summary report thereof at the next meeting.

May 20, *Post Merid. Sessione 4ta. post preces, &c.*

A letter presented by the people of Freehold about the settlement of Mr. Boyd is referred till the next meeting.

The report Mr. Andrews, Mr. McNish, and Mr. Boyd were to make of the letters from Woodbridge referred till the next meeting.

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taylor write to the people of Snowhill in answer to their letter.

The meeting adjourned till to-morrow, at three afternoon.

May 21, *Post Merid. Sessione 5ta. Precibus peractis.*

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson write an answer to the people of Freehold's letter.

A letter by Mr. Hampton to the people at Whiteclay Creek read and sustained.

Mr. McNish was defective in writing to the people of New Castle, and is to write against next *sederunt.*

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taylor were defective in writing to the people of Snowhill, and are to write against the next *sederunt.*

Mr. Taylor delivered his Presbyterial exercise, and it was sustained.

The meeting is adjourned till to-morrow, at 8 o'clock in the morning.

May 22, *post preces, sessione 6ta.*

Mr. Andrews is ordered to assist Mr. Wilson to write to the people of Freehold against the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taylor's letter to the people of Snowhill was read and sustained.

Ordered, That Mr. Boyd shall supply Woodbridge every third Sabbath if they desire it, and the Presbytery are to write to the people of Freehold desiring their consent thereto, and the meeting house shall be the only place of meeting or not at all in Woodbridge, but may be at Amboy if the people of Woodbridge and Amboy be content; and in the interval, when Mr. Boyd is not there, they are advised, if they can see it clear to themselves, to hear Mr. Wade.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hampton write to the ministers of Connecticut concerning the affair of Woodbridge.

Ordered, That Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson write to the people of Woodbridge.

Ordered, That Mr. Taylor write to the people of Monokin and Wicomico, exciting them to their duty to pay what they promise to Mr. McNish.

Ordered, That the next meeting be at Philadelphia, the second Tuesday of May next.

Mr. Davis is to have his Presbyterial Exercise the next meeting, upon Heb. i. ver. 4th, and Mr. McNish upon verse the 5th.

Ordered, That the meeting be adjourned till Monday, at 8 in the morning.

May 25th.

Mr. McNish's letter to the people of New Castle read and sustained.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson's letter to the people of Freehold read and sustained.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hampton's letters to Connecticut read and sustained.*

**May* 24, 1708.

To Mr. Davenport, Mr. Webb, Mr. Shove, and Mr. Buckingham.

Reverend Brethren:—Through the good providence of our Lord Jesus Christ assisting us, we, the ministers of the gospel, of the Presbyterian persuasion, in this province and those adjacent, taking into our serious consideration the case and circumstances of our holy religion in these parts, have, to our great toil and labour, and great difficulty to divers of us, by reason of our great distance from one another, formed ourselves into a Presbytery, annually to be convened, for the furthering and promoting the true interests of religion and godliness. In which our undertaking, as we would not have any thing should be advanced that may be justly disgustful to any pious soul, but the contrary, so it is our universal desire to walk in the nearest union and fellowship with the churches in those parts where you inhabit, not knowing any difference in opinion so weighty as to inhibit such a proposal, not doubting of your cordial assent thereunto. And for a testimony of our sincerity and real intentions to act as has been mentioned, we conclude it convenient to lay before you one difficult matter that has been, (to our great trouble and exercise,) laid before us, and also what has been our advice about it: holding it proper so to do, because yourselves have been concerned in a transaction that has in some measure led into it. We find by divers letters that have passed between you and sundry persons in Woodbridge, that you are not unacquainted with the confusions and distractions arising from the accession of Mr. Wade to be the minister of that town, and the aversion of a considerable part of the people to the accepting of him as such, and therefore need only mention what we, after mature deliberation and consultation have advised for the healing the differences among them, upon the application of those that disagree with Mr. Wade made unto us, concluding that if their contentions and animosities continue, it may be of unhappy consequence, viz. That Mr. Boyd, minister of Freehold, should, if desired by the dissenting party, (which, for distinction, may be so termed,) come and preach at Woodbridge one Lord's day every three weeks, in the public meeting house there, if it may, as we hope it will, be admitted; and if it be not allowed of, to prevent any open and visible breach as much as can be, that he should preach at Amboy, or any other place agreed upon, provided it be not within the town of Woodbridge, and have left it to their liberty and discretion, according to the light of their consciences, guided by the infallible word of God, either to join or not to join with Mr. Wade in the time of Mr. Boyd's absence. This we thought, after a great deal of perplexity about it, to be all that we could propose at present for the satisfying the gentlemen that have requested our help and counsel, and as the most ready expedient we could think upon, in the present exigency of affairs among them for their mutual reconciliation and comfort. Moreover, as you have been employed in Mr. Wade's fixing there, and we hope with sincere aims at the good of the place, so long groaning under the unhappiness of the want of a settled ministry, so we humbly conceive you are in duty bound in a special manner to put to your helping hand to rescue them from the miserable inconveniences that now they labour under, by all the ways that you can, to which we hope your advice for mutual forbearance may have much force. The disadvantages by such things as these administered to the power and life of religion, and our common cause, with the occasion given to them that would rejoice in our ruin, we need not inform of, and therefore promise ourselves nothing will be wanting on your part for accommodating these differences. And in the mean time we request your charitable constructions upon what we have directed unto, in so difficult a matter, if it do not prove to be ac-

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews' letter to the people of Woodbridge read and sustained.

Mr. Taylor's letter to the people of Wicomico read and sustained.

At a meeting of the Presbytery at Philadelphia,

1709.

May 10, 1709, *post preces sederunt.*

Ministers: Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. Nath. Taylor, Mr. George McNish, Mr. John Hampton, and Mr. Joseph Smith.

Elders: Joseph Yard, John Gardner, Alexander Bell, William Fosset, and Robert Wilson.

Mr. Andrews was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Smith, Clerk to the Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton write to the people of Cohanzy to perform their obligations to Mr. Smith.

It was complained of that Mr. Davis did not perform his part at the inauguration of Mr. Hampton.

The business of Mr. Wilson, referring to New Castle, deferred till the next *sederunt*, and also relating to Apoquinimy.

It was also objected against Mr. Davis, that he did not preach at Apoquinimy according to order.

The Rev. Mr. John Boyd being dead, what relates to him ceases.

The Presbytery adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow.

May 11, *sessione* 2*da, post preces sederunt, &c.*

Mr. Hampton, according to order, performed his part in writing to the people of Cohanzy, and the letter was approven.

The Presbytery adjourned till 3 o'clock, post merid.

Sessione 3*tia post preces sederunt, ministers, &c.*

Ordered, That Mr. Davis be writ to, and that the letter be writ by Mr. Taylor, for his absence and other delinquencies, not preaching at Apoquinimy, not delivering his Presbyterial exercise.

Ordered, That every letter sent by the Presbytery be inserted into a book appointed by the Presbytery for that purpose, and that this be done by Mr. Andrews.

Ordered, That Mr. Davis prepare his Presbyterial exercise on Heb. i. 4, (as was formerly appointed by the Presbytery,) against the next meeting of the Presbytery, and that this be signified by Mr. Taylor's letter to him.

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson preach at Apoquinimy once a month till the next meeting upon a week day, and one Sabbath in a quarter till the aforesaid meeting, provided always, that the Sabbath day's sermon be taken from the Whitclay Creek people, their time.

Ordered, That Mr. Smith go to the people of Maidenhead and Hopewell, and confer with them on such matters as shall be propounded to him by them, concerning his being called to be their minister; and that Mr. Smith preach to the people aforesaid, on his way to New England, or return from it, or

---

cording to your own sentiments, seeing it is according to the best of our light. Thus hoping that our churches and ourselves, in this dark part of the world, shall be remembered in your supplications unto that God in whom are all our springs, and from whom is all help, direction, and success, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the work of the gospel.—[*Letter Book.*]

both; and that this be intimated to Mr. Smith, and the people aforesaid be writ to by Mr. Andrews.

The Presbytery is adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

4ta. Sessione ante merid.

Post preces sederunt, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, moderator, &c.

The letter to Mr. Davis was writ, read, and approved.

Ordered, That a draught of a letter be drawn up to New Castle by Mr. Wilson and Mr. McNish.

The Presbytery adjourned till 3 o'clock, post merid.

5ta. sederunt post merid.

Precibus peractis, sederunt, &c.

A letter from Woodbridge read; and resolved that an answer be written to them by Mr. Wilson.

A letter from the people of Monokin and Wicomico read and seriously considered. A call also sent from them to Mr. McNish, was not accepted by him. Resolved, that a letter be writ to them hereupon by Mr. Taylor. Ordered also, that Mr. McNish preach only every third Sabbath to those of Wicomico.

Ordered, next *sederunt* at 2 o'clock, post merid.

6ta. sederunt.

Mr. McNish delivered his Presbyterial exercise and was approved.

New Castle affair debated, and a letter to them agreed on.*

Ordered, That a letter be written in concert with that from New-England to Sir Edmund Harrison, by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews.

Also, that a letter be written to Mr. Mather and other ministers at Boston, to thank them for their concurrence with us.

Adjourned till Monday, 9 o'clock, ante merid.

---

* To the people of New Castle.

May 1709.

Out of a Christian compassion that we have towards you, we cannot but commiserate your present circumstances, and are heartily sorry for the misunderstanding that is between you and Mr. Wilson; as also for the difference that is between you and our Christian friends in the country. We would be glad to fall upon a healing method to remedy these unhappy divisions. And gentlemen, you may be assured, that whatsoever (in duty,) lies within the compass of our power shall not be wanting; but after second thoughts and a due sense of your condition, we fear that such changes as are set on foot among you in the present circumstances concerning a minister, may prove detrimental to your and our common interest, especially when we take notice that nothing particular has been offered to us by you concerning our brother Mr. Wilson, why he may not continue in his pastoral charge and function among you as formerly. A general dissatisfaction is the principal thing, (it seems,) which is pretended both in your letter to us, and by your and our friend, Mr. Janvier. However, out of tender respect to you, we have according to desire, presented Mr. McNish with your call, which he, for reasons given you by himself, cannot at present comply with. We beseech you, gentlemen, to put favourable constructions upon what we do, and that in truth and sincerity we desire and pray for, and endeavour your spiritual and eternal welfare; but yourselves may easily see that the smallness of our number, the particular engagements that every one of us lie under already, render your supply any other way than by our brother Mr. Wilson, at least at present, impracticable. And therefore, we entreat, nay require you in the Lord, to concur with us; lay aside all prejudices; struggle not too much with providential, unavoidable difficulties; be submissive, which is a truly Christian temper; trust in God, use patient endeavours, and expect without doubting a comfortable issue, which we hope for and shall constantly endeavour. Subscribing ourselves,

Yours in the work of the Gospel, &c.—[*Letter Book.*]

Horâ 9na. ante merid. post preces sederunt, &c.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews' letter to Sir Edmund Harrison, read and approved, and committed to Mr. Andrews to transmit it to London.*

Mr. Hampton's letter to Mr. Mather and others, in Boston, was read and approved; ordered that Mr. Andrews have the sending of it.

Mr. Taylor's letter to Mr. Davis, and another to Monokin and Wicomico, were read and approved.

Ordered, That no members of this Presbytery, upon any whatever pretence, do depart or leave the Presbytery, without the meeting be broke up, or at least leave be asked and had from the Presbytery.

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* To Sir Edmund Harrison.

May, 1709.

Honourable Sir:—The distressed condition of these Provinces, with respect to religion, in which the providence of God has cast our lot, has moved us to apply to the Reverend Ministers of Boston, in New-England, to join with us in addressing yourself, and other charitable gentlemen in London, to consider the state of these countries, and to implore your help and assistance for promoting the interest of our glorious Lord. To our great satisfaction they have readily complied with our desire, and have drawn up and signed a letter particularly directed to yourself. And that we for our parts may not be wanting, being informed of that public excellent spirit in you, famed both for piety and prudence, do likewise address ourselves unto your honour upon the same account. The negotiation begun and encouraged by a fund, in the time when our worthy friend Mr. McKemie, (now deceased,) was with you, for evangelizing these colonies, was a business exceedingly acceptable to a multitude of people, and was likely to have been of great service if continued, which makes us much grieved that so valuable a design was, so soon after its beginning, laid aside. The necessity of carrying on the same affair being as great, if not greater now, than it was then, we hope that our patriots [patrons?] in London, will revive so good and important a work, and not let it lie buried under the ashes, but that some suitable method will be taken that it may be set on foot again. Unto whom can we apply ourselves more fitly than unto our fathers, who have been extolled in the reformed churches for their large bounty and benevolence in their necessities? We doubt not, but if the sum of about two hundred pounds per annum, were raised for the encouragement of ministers in these parts, it would enable ministers and people to erect eight congregations, and ourselves put in better circumstances than hitherto we have been. We are at present seven ministers, most of whose outward affairs are so straitened as to crave relief, unto which, if two or three more were added, it would greatly strengthen our interest, which does miserably suffer, as things at present are among us. Sir, if we shall be supplied with ministers from you, which we earnestly desire; with your benevolence to the value abovesaid, you may be assured of our fidelity and Christian care in distributing it to the best ends and purposes we can, so as we hope we shall be able to give a just and fair account for every part of it to yourself and others, by our letters to you. It is well known what advantages the Missionaries from England have of us, from the settled fund of their Church, which not only liberally supports them here, but encourages so many insolences both against our persons and interests, which sorrowfully looking on, we cannot but lament and crave your remedy. That our evangelical affairs may be the better managed, we have formed ourselves into a Presbytery, annually to be convened at this city; at which times it is a sore distress and trouble unto us, that we are not able to comply with the desires of sundry places, crying unto us for ministers to deal forth the word of life unto them; therefore we most earnestly beseech you, in the bowels of our Lord, to intercede with the ministers of London, and other well affected gentlemen, to extend their charity and pity to us, to carry on so necessary and glorious a work; otherwise many people will remain in a perishing condition as to spiritual things. In so doing, your humble supplicants shall ever pray that the blessings of God's throne and footstool may be conferred upon you and them.

P. S. The death of that worthy and honourable person, the Lord Lovelace, we are afraid will prove detrimental to our interest; and we could wish that his place were filled again with a person of such a spirit and temper as he appeared to be of. We desire that what you shall please to transmit to us, as to letters or otherwise, may be directed unto Mr. Andrews, or in his absence to Mr. David Giffing and Mr. William Allen, in Philadelphia.—[*Letter Book.*]

Ordered, That our next meeting be at Philadelphia, on the third Tuesday of September, 1710. And that Mr. Hampton prepare his Presbyterial exercise against that time, from Heb. i. 6.

1710.

At a Presbytery held at Philadelphia,

September 20, 1710. *Post preces sederunt*

Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. George McNish, Mr. John Hampton Ministers.

Mr. John Gardner, Mr. Joseph Yard, Mr. Alexander Brown, Mr. Benjamin Aidlett, elders.

It being put to the vote who should be moderator, carried for Mr. George McNish; and also voted for the clerk, carried for John Hampton.

The Presbytery met to-day, though yesterday was appointed, because the members were not come together before this day.

Mr. Hampton, according to order, delivered his Presbyterial exercise, and the same was approved of.

Upon the desire of the Rev. Mr. John Henry to be admitted a member of this Presbytery, having given due satisfaction by testimonials to the Presbytery, he was, according to desire, admitted.

At the desire also of Mr. James Anderson, he was admitted, upon producing sufficient testimonials of his abilities and qualifications for the ministerial work, and that he was duly licensed and ordained thereunto.

The Presbytery adjourned to eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Die Jovis, 2da. sederunt post preces.

After mature and deliberate consideration of the Rev. Mr. Wade's case, that has been long under our consideration, he now offering himself and desiring to be a member of this Presbytery, was admitted, having satisfied, by letters and testimonials, and personal arguing, that his proceedings have been such as to give just ground for his acceptance.

A committee consisting of Mr. Wilson, Andrews, Hampton, appointed to meet at two o'clock, to inquire into Mr. Morgan's and Van Vleck's affair, and prepare it for the Presbytery.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post merid.*

Post preces, 3a. sederunt, &c.

The committee, according to order, inquired into Mr. Morgan's case, and made report thereof unto the Presbytery. And after debating thereupon, and having put it to vote, it was carried in the affirmative to admit said Morgan as a member of this Presbytery.

The committee reported Mr. Van Vleck's case, and after serious debating thereon, put it to the vote, admit him a member of the Presbytery or not, and it was carried in the affirmative.

Memorandum: Upon the admission of these ministers above mentioned: three elders more sat in the Presbytery, namely, Mr. Pierce Bray, Mr. John Foord, and Mr. Lenard Van Degrift.

A committee consisting of Mr. Henry, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Wade, appointed to prepare and bring in overtures to the Presbytery, and also take cognizance of whatever may be laid before them, to prepare it for the Presbytery.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Die Veneris ante meridiem 4, sederunt, &c. post preces.

Upon information that David Evan, a lay person, had taken upon him

publicly to teach or preach among the Welch in the Great Valley, Chester county, it was unanimously agreed that the said Evan had done very ill, and acted irregularly in thus invading the work of the ministry, and was thereupon censured.

Agreed that the most proper method for advancing David Evan in necessary literature to prepare him for the work of the ministry is, that he lay aside all other business for a twelve month, and apply himself closely to learning and study, under the direction of Mr. Andrews, and with the assistance of Mr. Wilson and Anderson, and that it be left to the discretion of the said ministers when to put said Evan on trials, and license him publicly to teach or preach.

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson write to the Welch, in the Welch Tract, and Mr. Andrews to those in the Great Valley.

A call from the good people of Rehoboth, in Maryland, to the Rev. Mr. Henry, presented by Mr. Pierce Bray before the Presbytery, and his answer deferred till afternoon.

Adjourned to three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

The call to Mr. Henry came under consideration, and being again proposed to his acceptance, he accepted thereof.

The letter to the Great Valley, writ by Mr. Andrews, read and approved.

It being reported that one Walter Kerr defamed the Presbytery, and Mr. Morgan, minister to said Kerr, desiring advice therein how to behave, it was referred to the said Mr. Morgan to take cognizance of the offence, and to act either by private or public censure, as the nature of the thing should appear to him, and that report thereof be made next meeting.

Ordered, That the ministers and elders of the meeting come prepared for the future to give a true and impartial account how matters are mutually betwixt them, both with regard to spirituals and temporals.

Ordered, That two letters be writ to Woodbridge, to the two parties thereof, by Mr. Wilson, Andrews, and Hampton.

Mr. Morgan has obtained leave to return home on sufficient reasons offered.

Mr. Brown, from the people of Monokin and Wicomico, moved for Mr. McNish's answering to the call formerly presented to him, and his answer was delayed till to-morrow or Monday.

Adjourned till to-morrow, nine o'clock.

Mr. Wilson writ to the people of Welch Tract, and was sustained.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton and Mr. Davis preach the admission sermons of Mr. John Henry, at Rehoboth.

Mr. Henry and Mr. McNish appointed to preach to-morrow, being the Lord's day, and Mr. Anderson on Monday.

Adjourned to eight o'clock, Monday morning.

Letters writ to Woodbridge by Mr. Wilson, Andrews, Hampton, read and sustained.*

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* To our Christian friends in Woodbridge, with whom the Rev. Mr. Wade is concerned.

September, 1710.

Christian Friends, We salute you heartily in the Lord, wishing you grace, mercy, and peace, &c. Your Reverend Pastor, and our beloved brother, Mr. Wade, having offered himself to be a member of our Presbytery, we have, after due deliberation, accordingly accepted of him, in hopes that the issue thereof may tend to the glory of God and good of his Church, and contribute to the union and reconciliation of the good people of Woodbridge among themselves, as it doth in a particular manner unite them to us. Therefore,

Mr. McNish and Brown's affair came under consideration, and it was further delayed till afternoon.

Adjourned to three o'clock, afternoon

Ordered, That Mr. Henry write to the Presbytery of Dublin.

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson and Mr. Anderson write to the Synod of Glasgow.

Mr. McNish's affair further delayed till to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That a letter be writ to Dr. Tongue, at London, by the moderator.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to morrow.

The letters to Glasgow and Dublin read and sustained.*

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we beseech you on your parts, as we have your brethren and neighbours on their parts, to study with all care and diligence, unity, peace, and holiness, and that all division and animosity by-past may be entirely buried, by avoiding and shunning all reflections and imprudent expressions or carriage, that in the least may tend to continue or aggravate your unhappy divisions, or hinder that true Christian communion and fellowship which is the ornament of our holy religion. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Thus committing you to God and the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, we remain your servants for Christ's sake.—[*Letter Book.*]

To our Christian friends that are at present dissatisfied with Mr. Wade.

September, 1710.

Dear and Christian Friends:—We have had your friendly letter presented to us by our Rev. Brother, Mr. McNish, and took it into our most serious consideration, and desire to use all manner of conscientious tenderness, hoping that you will look upon our whole design to be for the glory of God, and the propagation of the gospel among you, beseeching you that our advice be not, by any person misunderstood, as if we had any other thing in our view than what we have already mentioned, expecting that it may have its due weight with pious and thinking souls. The Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Wade made application to the Presbytery to be admitted a member thereof, upon which we deliberately debated, and made a narrow scrutiny into matters as they appeared to us, and found by his certificates that his ordination was good and valid according to Scripture rules, and also that he had a call and subscriptions even from some of yourselves, with several other recommendations from persons whose integrity we could not suspect. And nothing appearing to his disadvantage sufficiently attested, we judged it unjust to deny his desire, which seemed to us to flow from sincere intentions of being more useful and doing greater good, he having freely and fully submitted himself to the judgment and discipline of the Church according to Presbytery, and also to the meeting in particular, to whom he and his people now stand in relation. Therefore, beloved in the Lord, having thus acted sincerely and used our best endeavours to determine things most justly and fairly, we do recommend to your tenderness, Christian love and affection, and for evidence thereof we can do no other than declare it to be our judgment that you do, (since you do professedly own this judicatory,) so far countenance our determination as to have a care of any thing that looks like dissension or separation, but the contrary. And we do likewise, in the bowels of Christ, (knowing how much the interest of godliness is concerned in it,) with all tenderness and love, exhort you to study peace and unity among your neighbours, and to have a conscientious care not to weaken the hands of Mr. Wade in the work of the ministry. And that this duty of love and peace may be the more effectually promoted and practised among you, we have also sent our exhortatory letter to your neighbours, that nothing may be wanting on their part, which, together with this, we hope may be of a cementing use. Thus recommending you to the care and guidance of the Father of Lights, we conclude, and remain your cordial well-wishers.—[*Letter Book.*]

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* The Presbytery met at Philadelphia to the Rev. Presbytery of Dublin, wisheth grace, mercy, peace, (the bond of fellowship,) and prosperity in the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

September, 1710.

Rev. and dear Brethren in the Lord:—By a letter from the Rev. Mr. Alexander Sinclare, a member of your society, dated November, 1709, and directed to Mr. John Henry,

The matter betwixt Mr. Brown and McNish with relation to the people of Monokin, came again to be considered, and Mr. McNish agreed to go down some time before winter to Monokin, and in the meantime to write to them, which the Presbytery have agreed unto; and then Mr. McNish to give his answer to their call.

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one of our number, we find you desire a correspondence may be settled and continued from time to time, than the which nothing can be more acceptable to us poor scattered and far dispersed labourers in our Lord's vineyard. As also you desire an account of our ecclesiastical affairs, and promise all the assistance yourselves can afford, or procure by interest from others. The former we are ready to give, and for the latter we are grateful

As to the state of the Church in these parts, our interest truly is very weak, and we cannot relate this matter without sorrow of heart, since it is too much owing to the neglect of ministers at home. Our late Rev. Brother Mr. Francis McKemie, prevailed with the ministers of London to undertake the support of two itinerants for the space of two years, and after that time to send two more upon the same condition, allowing the former after that time to settle, which, if accomplished, had proved of more than credible advantage to these parts, considering how far scattered most of the inhabitants be. But, alas, they drew back their hand, and we have reason to lament their deficiency. Had our friends at home been equally watchful and diligent as the Episcopal Society at London, our interest in most foreign plantations probably might have carried the balance. In all Virginia there is but one small congregation at Elizabeth River, and some few families favouring our way in Rappahanock and York. In Maryland only four, in Pennsylvania five, and in the Jerseys two, which bounds with some places of New York, makes up all the bounds we have any members from, and at present some of these be vacant. Not long ago there was a probability of doing more good in Maryland before episcopacy was established by law, and at present is in Pennsylvania, the East and West Jerseys, and some places of New York, if the occasion also be not slipped. As for ecclesiastical affairs in other places, we shall not here trouble you with, being not perfectly acquainted therewith ourselves. That then, Reverend and dear Brethren, which at present we would humbly, for the sake of Christ's interest, make the subject of our address unto you is, that of your zealous Christian, and religious charity to the mystical body of the blessed Jesus, you would raise one sixty pound to support an able well approved of young man from yourselves as an itinerant in these parts, among the dispersed children of God for a year, after which time we doubt not but he may be settled comfortably. This we have used our interest in London for, in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Calamy, which we expect, according to promise from the Rev. Mr. Sinclare, you will use yours also to forward. And in the meantime not be wanting to answer our former request. Thus, not making the least doubt but this our letter shall have the desired answer, we subscribe ourselves, by our representative, your well wishers in the Lord.—[*Letter Book.*]

The Presbytery met at Philadelphia, to the Right Reverend Synod, of Glasgow.

September, 1710.

Right Reverend:—Hoping you are in part acquainted with the circumstances of our interest in these American plantations, and persuading ourselves of your readiness to contribute both by advice and otherways for the general good of Christianity in these poor neglected provinces, we have unanimously judged it, (knowing none so proper to apply unto, and repose our confidence in, as yourselves, our Reverend Brethren of the Church of Scotland, whom we sincerely honour and affectionately esteem as fathers,) our duty, for strengthening our interest in the service of the gospel, to address you for your concurrence with us in so great and good a work. We are not a little encouraged in these our applications, by a letter from the Rev. Mr. James Brown, of Glasgow, one of the members of the Rev. Synod, (to some of our good friends,) of your willingness to correspond with us, in what concerns the advancement of the Mediator's interest in these regions where our lot is fallen. We have, for some years past, formed ourselves into a Presbyterial meeting, annually convented at the city of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, and to our capacities, (considering our infancy, paucity, and the many oppositions and discouragements we have all along struggled with,) taken what care we could that our meeting, (though small,) might be for the general good of religion in these parts. And we are thankful that by the Divine Providence our endeavours and poor essays have not been altogether in vain. The number of our ministers from the respective provinces is ten in all, three from Maryland, five from Pennsylvania, and two from East Jersey. And we are in

Next meeting appointed at Philadelphia, third Tuesday of September, 1711. And that Mr. Henry and Mr. Anderson prepare their Presbyterial Exercises on 1 Heb. 7th and 8th verses. Mr. Henry on verse 7, and Mr. Anderson on verse 8.

1711.

At a Presbytery held at Philadelphia,

September 20, 1711. *Post preces sederunt*

Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. George McNish, Mr. John Hampton, Mr. James Anderson, Mr. Nathaniel Wade, ministers.

John Steel, Joseph Yard, Adam Spence, Segfrigus Alricks, Thomas Pike, elders.

Mr. Andrews was clerk, and Mr. Wilson moderator.

Mr. Henry's letter to excuse his not coming to the Presbytery read, and his excuse was sustained.

Ordered, That the moderator write to him, and signify that his excuse was sustained with difficulty.

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Van Vleck were absent, and no excuse given or sent.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews write to them to reprehend them for their absence.

Appointed that David Evan's affair, in relation to his proficiency in learning be considered.

Because of Mr. Morgan's absence, no report was given of that affair of Walter Kerr, spoken of in the minutes of the former year.

The minute relating to the giving account of the mutual concerns of ministers and people referred to the next *sederunt.*

Mr. Davis and Mr. Hampton preached the admission sermons of Mr. Henry according to appointment.

Upon a certain emergency the Presbytery met a day later than appointment.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

21 *sessione* 2*da. die Veneris.*

Inquiry was made of the several ministers, touching the state of their con-

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great expectation that some from other places may be encouraged to join us hereafter. We have thought good further to represent to the Rev. Synod, the desolate condition of sundry vacant places who have applied to us for a supply of ministers, who express their Christian desire of enjoying the public administrations of the gospel purely, but to their and our grief they are not in a capacity to provide a competent maintenance for the support of ministers without being beholden to the Christian assistance of others, at least for some time. We are sorry in our present circumstances we can neither answer their request by supplying them with ministers, nor contributing towards their outward support, some of ourselves being considerably straitened. May it therefore please the pious and Rev. Synod, in compassion to the desolate souls in America, perishing for want of vision, to send over one or more ministers, and to support them for longer or shorter time. This will be a work very worthy of persons of your character, a strengthening to us and our interest, and a matter of singular comfort to all the sincere lovers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We further represent, that according to the best of our judgment, forty pounds sterling annually paid in Scotland, to be transmitted in goods, will be a competency for the support of each minister you send, provided that of your pious and Christian benevolence you suitably fit them out. And after they have here laboured in the Lord's vineyard a year or two, we are in good hopes that they will find such comfortable encouragement as may induce them to settle among us without giving you further trouble for their support. Thus recommending ourselves and affairs to your Christian concern and hearty prayers, expecting your ready concurrence with us in these representations and desires for the public good and interest of the gospel, and praying for the rich blessing of heaven upon yourselves, and success in your undertakings for Christ's Church, we remain your affectionate brethren and fellow labourers in the work of the Lord.—[*Letter Book.*]

gregations and of themselves, with relation thereto; and also of the several elders, not only of the measures taken to support the ministry, but of the life, conversation, and doctrine of their several ministers, and report was given to satisfaction for this time.

Mr. McNish's affair in reference to Patuxent, deferred till another time.

Appointed that the Moderator and Mr. Andrews write to the people of Cohanzy, in relation to Mr. Exell.

Mr. Wade's case deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, afternoon.

Post Merid.

Messrs. McNish, Hampton, and Wade, appointed to inspect into the proficiency of David Evan.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow.

22 *Die Saturni.*

Mr. Wade's case was reassumed.

The Moderator and Mr. Hampton appointed to draw up a form of words, which Mr. Wade is to use in the public reversing the sentence, publicly passed by him against John Ilsley and William Sharp.*

Messrs. Andrews, McNish, and Hampton, ordered to read the papers, relating to Mr. Wade's business, and to make report the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday.

24 *Die Lunæ.*

Messrs. Andrews, McNish, and Hampton, did what was appointed relating to the papers concerning Mr. Wade's case, and made report accordingly.

Mr. McNish's case came under consideration, and 'twas determined to leave his affair respecting Jamaica and Patuxent to himself, with advice not to delay fixing himself somewhere.

Mr. Anderson was defective in not delivering his Presbyterial exercise, was censured for his defect, and appointed to deliver it next meeting.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, afternoon.

Post Merid.

The Moderator and Mr. Andrews writ the letter to Cohanzy, and it was approved.†

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* A form of words appointed to be read for reversing a censure passed by Mr. Wade, against John Ilsley and William Sharp, as followeth:

Whereas some time ago, a censure of too high a nature has been here passed against John Ilsley and William Sharp, (though we cannot altogether excuse them, especially the former,) I do now upon good ground and satisfaction given, declare that the same persons, John Ilsley and William Sharp, are cleared from said censure, and now received into full communion as formerly before such censure, with this church, and all persons are accordingly to take notice thereof.

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† A letter to the people of Cohanzy.

September, 1711.

Dear and Christian Friends:—From our sincere regard to your spiritual and everlasting welfare, we have taken into our most serious consideration, your state and condition, as at present circumstanced, and could not but think it our incumbent duty, to lay before you what have been our thoughts thereupon. We could have wished you had taken better advised steps for your provision, as to the ministry, for we fear your present supply will not answer your expectation. As for the gentleman, that has for some time preached among you, though we wish him no harm, but all the good he can reasonably desire; yet we have such respect to the honour of the Gospel in general and yourselves

The committee gave in their report concerning David Evan, and do approve of his hopeful proficiency.

Several papers offered by John Ilsley in relation to Mr. Wade, not being thought proper to be discussed by this meeting, the said papers were delivered to him again, in concurrence with his own desire.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

25 *Die Martis.*

The Moderator and Mr. Andrews wrote the letter to Monokin, and 'twas approved.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, afternoon.

Post Merid.

Mr. Wade's business further discoursed about.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

26 *Die Mercurii.*

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson do supply the people of Patuxent four Sabbaths, Mr. Henry four Sabbaths, and Mr. Hampton is left to himself to supply sometime if he can.

Ordered, that Mr. Wilson in his letter to Mr. Henry, signify the appointment of the Presbytery, concerning his supplying at Patuxent.

This day our Reverend Brother, Mr. Wade, being asked if he had any thing further to offer in relation to Woodbridge, he did freely and of himself, make the following offer, viz: Whereas he had, with the greatest seriousness, for a long time truly lamented the many and unhappy jarrings among the people of Woodbridge; and that he might be no longer a bone of contention, did (out of a sense of the glory of God, the good of that people, and his own future quiet,) propose it, as the most healing method, that he, by the consent of the Presbytery, would cheerfully demit and resign up all pastoral relation to the whole people of Woodbridge, heartily wishing that they may unite in calling another minister, that the Presbytery shall approve of. And Mr. Wade further proposed, that in the mean time, till they be supplied, the Presbytery to take care that they may not be left destitute of help.

Mr. Van Vleck's excuse with respect to his absence, was sustained, he being disabled by sickness, as one of his elders reported, being sent for that purpose.

Agreed, That the Presbytery take a specimen of David Evan's knowledge in Divinity the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, afternoon.

Post Merid.

After serious deliberation, we are come to this conclusion, that the proposal made by the Rev. Mr. Wade, concerning the demitting of his pastoral charge at Woodbridge, is the only effectual method for the healing all the breaches among the people of Woodbridge; and therefore do heartily concur with him

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in particular, that, by the best account we have of him, we do not judge him a suitable person to preside in the ministerial function among you. He was invited to be present at our meeting, but he neither came nor sent, which intimates either a contempt or supine neglect of ecclesiastical judicatories. We have been informed concerning some printed papers dispersed by him among the people, which papers we cannot approve of, as containing abundance of gross errors, so far as they are intelligible, and a great part consisting of nonsense and self-contradictions, which is obvious to any judicious observer. We thought it fit to discharge our consciences, in endeavouring to guard you against those things which we judge prejudicial to truth and your souls' happiness; and do assure you, that what lies within the compass of our power, in order to your comfortable settlement, shall not be wanting from

Your souls' well-wishers.—[*Letter Book*]

in it, and accept of it as a truly proper and Christian expedient, and do henceforth allow the good people of Woodbridge to supply themselves with another pastor as soon as they can, and in the mean time accept of and improve such supply as shall be offered.

Mr. Wade ordered to supply during the vacancy.

Agreed, That none should be allowed to vote for the calling of a minister, but those that shall contribute for the maintenance of him, and that the major vote of those shall be determinative.

Ordered, That Mr. McNish do read the form of words drawn up at the appointment of the Presbytery, for the reversing the censure against John Ilsley and William Sharpe, publicly at the meeting house in Woodbridge.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton and Anderson write a letter to the people of Woodbridge.

The letter appointed to be writ to Patuxent, was read and approved.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow.

27 *Die Jovis.*

Upon the desire of the people of Maidenhead and Hopewell, signified by Mr. William Yard, for our assisting them in getting a minister, it was agreed, that in case the people of Maidenhead and Hopewell are not engaged with Mr. Sacket, that they use all opportunities they have for a speedy supply, and apply themselves to the neighbouring ministers for assistance in getting a minister for them.

The letter to Woodbridge read and approved.*

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* A Letter to the Christian People at Woodbridge.

September, 1711.

Dear and Christian Friends: The unhappy divisions and contentions that have been long among you, to our great grief and concern, having been again laid before us, with all diligence and care, we did again take them into consideration, and indeed found no small matter of sorrow, trouble, and vexation; and after spending much time could not, without difficulty, come to any conclusion.

Upon the whole matter, and after our serious reflections thereon, we cannot but with grief tell you, that we fear there has been fault on all hands, and that the most innocent have reason of self-condemnation; how much others, then, that have been the unhappy causes, fomenters, and promoters of such unchristian distractions and animosities. Woe to them by whom offences come. Having mentioned this, we cannot pass on till in the bowels of Christ we beseech and request you to look back and repent, to love and unite, in the true fear of God and the interest of his kingdom for the future.

That we are in particular to inform you of, which (as we hope,) will prove an effectual remedy to all your unhappy dissensions is, that our reverend brother Mr. Nathaniel Wade, has of himself, freely and willingly, for the glory of God and the good of poor Woodbridge, (as he and we both do hope,) demitted and resigned all pastoral relation unto, and interest in the whole people of Woodbridge; so that he is not any longer to be looked on by you, but as a transient minister or occasional supply. We have, therefore, appointed him to be your present supply, until you can, by the majority of the votes of such as contribute to the maintenance of a minister, provide yourselves with such an one, as we hope you will be unanimous in, and the Presbytery approve of at our next meeting. And Christian friends, we doubt not, but you are sensible that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and therefore hope you will not utterly neglect our Brother Wade, who is to be your present supply, so long as he continues such. We would in the last place advise that, as soon as conveniently you can, you do unanimously meet and consult on the most proper methods for settling the ministry among you; and that therein all private interests, and needless contradictions, and divisions be laid aside, the glory of God and good of your souls purely aimed at and studied, and that you forsake not the assembling yourselves together. And thus we hope, by Christian prudence and moderation, you will bring things, by the good providence of God, to a happy issue and comfortable conclusion. And assure yourselves that we shall always be ready and willing to assist you to the utmost of our power, in the work of the Gospel among you. Now brethren, the God of Peace and Order be with you; direct, strengthen, and establish you so prays, Yours, &c.—[*Letter Book.*]

Appointed, That David Evan preach under the direction and inspection of Messrs. Wilson, Andrews, and Anderson, till the next Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Wade and Mr. Morgan prepare their Presbyterial exercises against the next Presbytery, the former on the 9th the other on the 10th verse of Heb. i. And that Mr. Wade intimate this appointment to Mr. Morgan.

Next meeting appointed at Philadelphia, on the third Tuesday of September, 1712.

1712.

At a Presbytery held at Philadelphia, which began,

September 17, 1712. *Post preces sederunt,*

Ministers : Messrs. Jedediah Andrews, John Hampton, John Henry, James Anderson, Joseph Morgan, and Paul Van Vleck.

Elders : Messrs. Joseph Yard, Isaac Piper, John Burges, Isaac Dilbeck.

David Evan, a candidate, was chosen Clerk, and Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Moderator.

The members not being come together yesterday, the Presbytery began this day.

The roll being called over, our Rev. Brother, Mr. John Wilson, was taken away by death, and Messrs. Davis, McNish, and Wade, were absent.

The Presbytery, after inquiry, are satisfied that Mr. Davis was necessarily absent this three years past ; and it is ordered that Mr. Hampton and Mr. Henry do exhort him to attend for the future, or send sufficient excuse in writing.

Mr. Morgan's reasons for not coming to the Presbytery last year were given and sustained.

The business of Walter Kerr, mentioned in the year 1710, and continued the last year, being of so long a standing, and falling of itself, the Presbytery thought good to pass it without any further notice.

Touching the appointment made the last Presbytery for the supply of the people of Patuxent, it was complied with to satisfaction.

Mr. Henry delivered his Presbyterial exercise that was appointed 1710, and was approven.

One Mr. Bratton, a minister, who arrived in Maryland some time last fall, being detained by sickness that he could not attend the Presbytery, sent his certificate of his legal admission to the ministry, and was approven.

Mr. Robert Wilson, being commissioned, did present a letter from the people of Monokin and Wicomico, relating to their church affairs, in answer to a letter sent to them by us last year ; and also a call to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Bratton, with a paper of subscriptions for his encouragement.

And it is ordered that a letter be writ to the said Mr. Thomas Bratton, with respect to the said call, in favour of that people.

Mr. Anderson ordered to write the letter.

Adjourned till to-morrow, nine o'clock.

18 *Die Jovis, post preces sederunt, &c.*

Mr. McNish gave his reasons for not attending at the opening of Presbytery, and they were accepted.

Mr. Anderson writ the letter to Mr. Bratton, and it was approven.

The order for inquiring into the mutual condition of ministers and people, was observed, and no complaint was made by any, except by Mr. Van Vleck with respect to the people of Neshaminy, which cause is now depending.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

Post merid. post preces, sederunt, &c.

The business relating to Mr. Van Vleck and his people resumed.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow.

19 *Die Veneris, post preces, &c.*

The business relating to Mr. Van Vleck and his people, came again into consideration.

Mr. Anderson delivered his Presbyterial exercise that was appointed him 1710, and was approven.

Adjourned to half an hour after three in the afternoon.

Post merid. post preces, &c.

The business concerning Mr. Van Vleck and his people, again taken into consideration.

It was concluded that after the Presbytery had examined the several evidences brought in relation to the crime of bigamy, alleged against Mr. Van Vleck, as also the exceptions offered by the said Van Vleck against the evidences, and in vindication of himself, the Presbytery not finding the evidences clear and positive enough to prove the crime against him, and yet Mr. Van Vleck's vindication not sufficient to take off the scandal wholly, do therefore, till such time as Mr. Van Vleck bring satisfying proof of his first wife's death, for the honour of the gospel, advise that he do not officiate as a minister of the gospel. To which advice he does willingly agree.

Ordered, upon the whole, that a letter be writ to Mr. Van Vleck's people, by the moderator and Mr. Hampton.*

The Presbytery having seen Mr. George Gillespie's certificates, from the Presbytery of Glasgow, concerning his being licensed to preach, and his conversation, did approve of them, and in case Providence make way for his ordination, by a call from any congregation before next Presbytery, Mr. Andrews, McNish, Anderson, and Morgan, are ordered to ordain him, and that one of the said members, or two, as they shall see fit, preach at the solemnity.

A petition from the people of Whiteclay Creek was read.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow.

20 *Die Saturni, post preces, &c.*

Two letters from the people of Woodbridge, and one from Mr. Wade, being read, the business of that place was taken into consideration.

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* A letter to the people to whom Mr. Van Vleck did use to preach.

September 19*th*, 1712.

Christian Friends:—We have had your melancholy affair relating to the difference between some of you and Mr. Van Vleck under serious consideration, and do sincerely lament the same, as being of that nature to hinder the progress of true religion and good of souls.

We, after much pains and time spent about it, did agree to give it as our advice to Mr. Van Vleck, to desist from the exercise of his ministerial office until he vindicate himself from the grievous scandal that is so common, of his having two wives; which advice of ours he himself has willingly agreed unto, as the best way to take off and prevent, for the future, the reproach that, it is plain, religion and godliness might otherwise lie under. And therefore we hope, Christian friends, that you'll all take in good part, the care and pains we have been at in this matter, and be contented with what we have advised unto; and recommend unto you the practice of holiness, Christian love and peace, improving all opportunities you may have of public ordinances in the mean time, and that you endeavour to heal breaches as much as you can.

Postscript. The reason of this advice for his not preaching was this, that the Presbytery could not find proof clear and positive enough to prove the crime against him, yet Mr. Van Vleck's vindication did not appear sufficient.—[*Letter Book.*]

Ordered, That the moderator, Mr. McNish, and Mr. Hampton, bring in an overture with respect to Mr. Wade's affair, the next *sederunt.*

A petition presented from the people of Welsh Tract and Great Valley, with respect to David Evans, afterwards to be taken into consideration.

The petition of the people of White Clay Creek was again read, and it was ordered, that if Mr. Gillespie sees fit to leave Woodbridge, he first supply that people for some time, or any other he may be invited by, at his own discretion, till next Presbytery.

Adjourned to Monday, at nine o'clock.

22 *Die Lunæ, post preces sederunt, &c.*

Mr. Morgan *die Sabbati* delivered his Presbyterial Exercise that was appointed him 1711, and this day it was animadverted upon and approven.

A petition from the people of Cohanzy, being presented by Mr. John Ogden, their messenger, was read, and left to further consideration.

It was ordered, that a letter be writ to that people by the moderator.

The overture brought in by the moderator, Mr. McNish, and Hampton, concerning Mr. Wade and the people of Woodbridge, read and approven, and was as follows:

It is overtured, That whereas, for these several years, we have endeavoured to accommodate the differences between Mr. Wade and the people of Woodbridge, after some time, at his own proposal, we admitted him as a member of our Presbytery, and he submitted himself willingly to our constitution, which we hoped would have been effectual for the taking away these unhappy divisions, but to our sad disappointment, we have found them continue and rather increase.

The first year of his admission, we hoped that our Christian and ministerial advice, both to Mr. Wade and the disagreeing parties at Woodbridge, would have been sufficient for reconciliation, but herein also we were lamentably frustrated, for the next Presbytery their mutual complaints were again renewed.

And after inquiry and serious deliberation upon those complaints, some whereof brought by the people against Mr. Wade were of a scandalous nature, and of long standing, we came to an unanimous resolution, that really Mr. Wade has been all along, and continued to be, the woful bone of contention among that unhappy people, and that therefore the only effectual way of putting an end to these unchristian jars, was that Mr. Wade should demit all pastoral relation to the whole people of Woodbridge, and that they should be at full liberty to choose some other minister; but in the mean time, we were willing that Mr. Wade should supply their vacancy until another offered, not doubting but that Mr. Wade and the good people of Woodbridge would use their u animous endeavours with all convenient speed, to provide themselves with a qualified minister in whom they should agree. To all which Mr. Wade did, at our last Presbytery aforesaid, give his solemn and hearty consent, as fully appears from his own words, then spoken and upon record. Nevertheless, Mr. Wade immediately on his return to Woodbridge, did begin, and has continued ever since, to misconstrue our proceedings, and render ineffectual all our designs of peace and unity:

1. By pretending still to a pastoral relation to some of the people of Woodbridge, notwithstanding his own actual renunciation of all such charge as appears, and furthermore constituting new church officers.—Vide letter, November 23, 1711.

2. By finding fault with some of our Presbytery for providing a supply according to the mind of the whole Presbytery, who always designed Mr. Wade to supply no longer than till another could be had.—Vide letter, September 16, 1712.

3. By opposing the settlement of Mr. Gillespie, a preacher from North Britain, though recommended heartily by Dr. Mather, as well as sufficiently from Glasgow, and at first generally liked by the people of Woodbridge.—Vide Dr. Mather's last letter to Woodbridge.

4. But most of all, and which indeed includes all, by a shameful recantation which he, the said Mr. Wade, made, in a letter to three of our number, dated November 23, 1711, of what he solemnly and frankly acknowledged, upon conviction of his conscience, as he said, viz. that he had been a bone of contention at Woodbridge, and therefore, that he might be so no longer, he demitted all pastoral relation to them, heartily wishing they might unite in calling another which the Presbytery might approve of, as our records make appear; this he now declares he recants, so that it seems he resolves still upon being the wretched bone of contention, and therefore labours what he can, contrary both to the greatest part of the people, and the mind of the Presbytery, to plant himself there again, or if not, to keep up the contention. And though Mr. Wade has not attended this Presbytery, yet his own letters above cited, besides the personal knowledge of several members of this Presbytery concerning this affair, and the letters from the people, dated one of them, November 6, 1711, another September 13, 1712, besides one from Mr. Thomas Pike, of November 10th, 1711, do sufficiently evidence the contentions about him to be as great as ever.—Vide letter Nov. 23, 1711.

We, therefore, in the fear and name of our great Master, do appoint and ordain that the said Mr. Wade do no longer exercise his ministerial office at the town of Woodbridge, or among the people thereof, unless allowed by the Presbytery hereafter, but that he forthwith, and without resistance, directly or indirectly, give place to some other whom God in his providence may send, and the good people of Woodbridge, or the major part of them, call and agree about.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews and Anderson write upon that head to Dr. Cotton Mather, Mr. Nathaniel Wade, and the people of Woodbridge.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

P. M.

The letter to the people of Cohanzy was read and approven..

The Presbytery received a letter from Mr. Gillespie, and it was ordered that Mr. Henry write an answer unto it.

A complaint of the melancholy circumstances Mr. John Macky, in Elizabeth River, Virginia, labours under, by Mr. Henry, the Presbytery was concerned. And Mr. John Hampton saying that he designed to write to him on an affair of his own, the Presbytery desired him to signify their regard to, and concern for him.

The affair of David Evans came into consideration, and it was appointed that Mr. Hampton, Henry, and Morgan, inquire into his proficiency in learning, and give in a report the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow.

23 *Die Martis, post preces, &c.*

The letter to Mr. Gillespie was read and approven.

The brethren appointed to inquire into David Evans' proficiency in learning brought in their report, that he had for the time, made considerable proficiency; whereupon it was voted, whether he should be ordained before the next Presbytery, according to the people's desire, and it was carried in the negative.

Ordered, That he continue to follow his studies under the inspection of Mr. Andrews, &c., as heretofore.

The letters to Dr. Cotton Mather, Mr. Wade, and the people of Woodbridge, were written and approven.*

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews preach next Presbytery on the 11th verse of the first of the Hebrews, and Mr. McNish on the 12th.

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* To Dr. Cotton Mather.

September, 1712.

Rev. and Dear Brother:—You are not altogether unacquainted with the troubles that have been long at Woodbridge, by reason of the difference between Mr. Wade and a great part of the people there, which have occasioned much exercise and perplexity to us from year to year at our anniversary meetings, not only since his admission into our society, but also diverse years before. We hoped when he became one of us, we should have been instrumental of putting an end to those unhappy jarrs and feuds, but to our great sorrow, we have found ourselves miserably disappointed, for the contention increased rather than decreased presently thereupon, and has done so ever since. At our Presbytery last year, diverse of the people of Woodbridge appeared, some for and others against Mr. Wade; and grievous scandals were charged upon him, against which he made the best vindication he could, but not so good, but that we thought convenient to advise him to demit his pastoral relation to the whole people of Woodbridge, which advice he readily acquiesced in.

That the place might not be altogether destitute, it was thought expedient to make him their supply till another could be procured, to the satisfaction of the Presbytery and people. Mr. Wade, with tears in his eyes and trembling hands, declared he would be no longer a bone of contention there, which was matter of great rejoicing and satisfaction to us, expecting this would undoubtedly tend to the comfort and quiet of that miserable town; in which also our hope was frustrated to our great concern and lamentation.

Notwithstanding of such a free resignation of his charge made by him, he no sooner returned home, but he told the people, with ostentation, that now he was more firmly fixed in Woodbridge than ever he was before; and instead of complying with his demission so solemnly made, and joining with the people to get another minister, as he had promised to us; when the town came together to consider of that matter, he declared that he stood as fair to be voted for as any man, and contended that a vote should be first past with respect to himself, fallaciously and falsely pretending private instructions from divers members of the Presbytery so to do; thereby overturning and misapplying all that was done at the Presbytery, to the breaking up of the meeting once and again *re infecta*, and to the further confusion of the town, which constrained the people to send a messenger to a coram of our number for explication of our letter, which was very plain of itself. Moreover he had the confidence in his letter to those, not only to claim an interest in a part of the people still, as his church, but to recant that expression, wherein he had declared, that he would be no longer a bone of contention, thereby virtually renouncing his demission he had so formally made; which recantation, by the best information we can get, he hath effectually complied withal, by his continuing to be the miserable bone of contention there. For it plainly appears to us, that it is his industrious endeavour to prevent the happy settlement of that place in another minister, either by setting up himself again, or keeping up the contention, or both.

We hoped that when Mr. Gillespie came there, (a gentleman recommended with an excellent character, and of so laudable a carriage,) that he should have been the happy instrument of uniting that people, especially when his management there was to universal satisfaction And it is our opinion it had been so, if Mr. Wade had concurred with the people in it. But when he returned from Boston with your letter, (which, we doubt not, was with a sincere intention to promote the good of Woodbridge,) giving encouragement concerning one Mr. Wiswall; the town became divided betwixt Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Wiswall, which division we fear is too much owing to Mr. Wade, there appearing all likelihood of agreement in Mr. Gillespie before, which mistake we conclude to flow from misinformation, as your last letter to some in Woodbridge intimates.

We being fully persuaded, after serious deliberation and consultation, that so long as there is any hopes of Mr. Wade's preaching in Woodbridge, these feuds and animosities will be endless, have ordained and appointed, in the name and fear of our great Master, that the said Mr. Wade do no longer exercise his ministerial office at that town of Woodbridge, or among the people thereof, unless hereafter allowed by the Presbytery. We were constrained to this appointment, though Mr. Wade were not personally present, as being the only thing we could propose, and the utmost we could do for the good of poor Woodbridge.

Now sir, our joint request to you is, that you will use your utmost endeavour for the

Next Presbytery appointed to be at New Castle, on the third Tuesday of September, 1713.

1713.

At a Presbytery held at New Castle, which began,

September 15th, 1712. *Post preces sederunt*,

Ministers: Messrs. Jedediah Andrews, George McNish, John Henry, James Anderson.

Mr. James Anderson was chosen Clerk, and Mr. John Henry, Moderator.

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re-uniting of that people by persuading them and Mr. Wade to lay aside all former resentments and prejudices against one another, and peaceably acquiesce in the settlement of Mr. Gillespie, if he may be prevailed upon. And in case this proposal should fail, by Mr. Gillespie's removal, which we very much fear, that they may jointly agree in another suitable person, whom yourself with our other reverend brethren in Boston shall recommend, or that Providence may otherwise provide. We the more earnestly desire the speedy settlement of that place, upon the advantages that other persuasions take from those divisions, to make parties among them. And we fear, that in case it be not soon done, we shall lose that town, which we look upon as a place of considerable consequence.

Thus having laid before you the miseries of that deplorable town, and the necessity of its speedy relief, we conclude, recommending you and your holy labours to the blessing of our glorious Lord, and rest, Reverend Brother,

Your affectionate Brethren in Christ.—[*Letter Book.*]

To Mr. Nathaniel Wade.

September, 1712.

Mr. Wade:—We have had our meeting according to appointment, and were sorry that your business could not allow your attendance; your reasons intimated in your letter were sustained. The continued feuds between you and the people of Woodbridge came again under consideration, and after mature deliberation, we drew up the following overture, as the determination of the Presbytery concerning yourself, which we here transcribe and send you, expecting your ready compliance therewith. And at the same time earnestly exhort you, in the name and fear of God, to be so far from countenancing any differences among the people, by being *a bone of contention*, that you do use your utmost interest in them for their mutual peace and concord, as becomes a minister of the Prince of Peace. We account it would be an honourable thing in you that you use your best endeavours, that the worthy gentleman now among you, Mr. Gillespie, may be retained, and not discouraged; and that the people that have hitherto adhered to you, may be advised thankfully to acquiesce in him. And in case these differences should drive Mr. Gillespie out of the town, (which we hope no man will dare to maintain for that purpose,) we expect you will conscientiously, what in you lies, labour with the people that the place may be settled in the enjoyment of some other suitable person whom Providence shall provide. In a word, we earnestly recommend to you, that you study the peace and quiet of the town, that they may become at length, if it can be, happy in the enjoyment of an established ministry, according to the present desires of the people, that so these quarrels may not be carried on *ad infinitum*.—[*Letter Book.*]

The Overture is in the book of minutes.

To our Christian Friends at Woodbridge.

September, 1712.

Christian Friends and Dearly Beloved:—We have again taken much pains and spent much time in deliberating upon the deplorable differences of your town, which have heretofore cost us so much perplexity and trouble. And after impartial weighing and considering all circumstances we came to this conclusion, that so long as Mr. Wade does or may preach in the place, the people will neither agree in him nor in any other. We have, therefore, in the name and fear of our great Master, ordained and appointed that he do no longer exercise his ministerial office at your town, or among the people thereof, unless allowed by the Presbytery hereafter, of which we have given intimation in our letter to him. We do earnestly exhort and entreat you, in the bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, that laying aside all prejudices and animosities among one another, you do study peace, love, unity, and concord, as you did solemnly engage not long since in a public meeting held among you. Divine Providence having sent among you so worthy a man as Mr.

Mr. Robert Lawson, Mr. Daniel Magill, and Mr. George Gillespie, having applied to this Presbytery for admittance as members thereof, and the Presbytery finding, by their ample testimonials, that they have been legally and orderly ordained as ministers of the Gospel, and that they have since behaved themselves as such, did cheerfully and cordially receive them, and so they took their places.

After which the names of the members being called, there were present,

Ministers: Messrs. Jedediah Andrews, George McNish, John Henry, James Anderson, Robert Lawson, Daniel Magill, and George Gillespie.

Elders: Messrs. Joseph Yard. Rowlaph Dehaws, James Caldwell, James Bell, Alexander White.

Absent, Mr. John Hampton, whose letter of excuse was read and sustained. Mr. Joseph Morgan was likewise absent.

Next *sederunt* appointed to be at three o'clock, afternoon, and so after prayer the Presbytery was dismissed.

P. M. at three o'clock, post preces sederunt ut supra.

According to appointment of last Presbytery, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Henry spoke to Mr. Davis concerning his former absence, and being on account of Mr. Hampton's sickness, necessarily absent, he is for this time excused.

Mr. Bratton, mentioned in last year's minutes, to our great grief deceased, October 1712.

Mr. Van Vleck bringing certain papers immediately after breaking up of the Presbytery last year, to clear himself from the crimes charged upon him, as may more fully appear by a memorandum in the Book of Letters: and there being an appointment made to examine the validity of these papers, it was judged by those appointed to inspect into that matter, that he was guilty. (*Vide* Book of Letters.) And he being now absent, and nothing yet appearing for his vindication, it is appointed that his suspension shall continue.*

Gillespie, we cannot but recommend him to your countenance and encouragement, as a person, by the character he bears, by all information concerning him, worthy of your acceptance, and in whom we hope you may be happy, if you can agree. To our lamentation and sorrow we hear that the differences among you have produced thoughts in him, that his abiding there will make him very uncomfortable. Nevertheless we shall endeavour to strengthen his hands and encourage his heart to try a while longer, waiting for the effect of our renewed essays for peace and quietness among you. And in case you should be so unhappy as to lose so deserving a man, we justly fear his removal may prove a vast discouragement to another from venturing among you, which we conclude all serious Christians will lay to heart. Nevertheless if these contentions should drive him away, we hope you will still labour to be unanimous in the call and settlement of another suitable person; and we shall not be wanting, both by our prayers and other endeavours, to promote your happiness in the enjoyment of so great a blessing. And so recommending you to the grace of God, we remain your cordial well-wishers.—[*Letter Book.*]

* *Memorandum.*

That the next day after the Presbytery broke up, Mr. Paulus Van Vleck making his appearance with some papers to vindicate himself from the crime of bigamy, which all the members had a sight of, but all of them being just upon departing, except Mr. Andrews, McNish, and Hampton, it was left to these to consider of those papers, which they did, and thought them not sufficient to clear him from that scandal. There came also complaints against him for telling lies, concerning some things which he bought of Mr. Vander Gaegh, and said his mother sent them out of Holland. Whereupon these members gave this as their judgment, that in case he should clear himself from the imputation of bigamy, yet that he should not be allowed to exercise his ministerial office till he cleared himself from the said charge of lying also.

Further, it being reported there was a letter at New York from the said Mr. Van Vleck's

Mr. George Gillespie having read a call from the people of Whiteclay Creek, and having delivered a sermon and exegesis, and being examined as to his knowledge in the original languages, his skill in philosophy and theology, by Messrs. Andrews, Anderson, and Morgan, according to the appointment of the Presbytery, was approved, and solemnly set apart and ordained, by fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands, to the office of the sacred ministry, upon the 28th day of May, 1713.*

Mr. Hampton writ to Mr. John Makie according to appointment.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews deliver his Presbyterial exercise to-morrow, at eleven o'clock.

Mr. George McNish not having his Presbyterial exercise ready, and excusing himself on account of sickness for a month past, was blamed for not preparing of it sooner, and ordered to prepare and deliver the same for the next Presbytery.

Adjourned till to-morrow, nine o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 16th day. Post preces sederunt, &c.

The Rev. Mr. Howell Powell having offered himself for admittance as a member of this Presbytery, the Presbytery was so well satisfied with what

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mother, that contradicted these which he produced, Mr. McNish and Hampton being bound thither, it was left to them to inspect into that affair.

Memorandum Second, October 24, 1712.

Mr. Hampton being returned, makes this report, that they having made inspection according to order, found a letter from said Van Vleck's mother to his uncle, Jacob Phenix, or his wife, bearing date within three or four days with Van Vleck's letter, and contradictory to his, testifying that then his wife was alive; and found also, the hands as they thought, different. Whereupon they were really of opinion, that Mr. Van Vleck was guilty of the crime laid to his charge.

Philadelphia, October 25, 1712.

Mr. Andrews and Hampton's letter to the Dutch people.

Christian Friends:—We have thought fit to communicate unto you further our thoughts concerning your affair with Mr. Van Vleck, which are as followeth: First, concerning the charge of his having two wives, inquiry has been made at New York as was appointed by the meeting, and it's found that there's a letter to Mr. Jacob Phenix, much of the same date with Mr. Van Vleck's, but directly contradictory to it, testifying that his wife was then alive, neither does it at all appear to be any forgery, but very genuine, the hand agreeing with former letters of Mr. Van Vleck's mother, who wrote this to Phenix. Nor does it appear that either Mr. Phenix, or his wife, has any spite or malice against Mr. Van Vleck at all, so that we are more afraid than ever that he is guilty of that dreadful sin laid to his charge. And then, as to his foolish and needless lying, which is a very scandalous sin, that is sufficiently evident. Both which crimes are greatly aggravated by his drunkenness, besides swearing, and indecent light carriage; all which, as we do greatly lament, so we really think in our consciences you are not to encourage such a person, under such grievous scandals, in the work of the holy ministry among you, but rather to study and endeavour your supply otherways, by such Christian means as prudence may direct you. And so, bidding you farewell, and wishing you all grace and truth, we remain yours in the Lord.—[*Letter Book.*]

* *Memorandum.*

That on the 28th of May, 1713, Mr. George Gillespie was ordained and set apart to the ministerial work by Messrs. Andrews, Anderson, and Morgan. That he preached a sermon the day before from Gal. iv. ver. 4th, and part of the 5th, and delivered his exegesis on this question, viz. *An Christus pro omnibus et singulis sit mortuus*, discovered his knowledge in the original tongues, answered to sundry questions on several places of Scripture and other theological matters; all which was done to good acceptance.—[*Letter Book.*]

was offered in his behalf with respect to his ordination, &c. that it was agreed to admit him as a member, with advice to him to procure further credentials from some eminent ministers in England known to some of the members of the Presbytery, within a year's time, and that till then it shall be free to him to exercise his ministry in all its parts where Providence shall call him, but not fully to settle as a fixed minister until the expiration of the said time.

Adjourned to three o'clock, afternoon.

P. M.

A call from the people of Monokin and Wicomico to Mr. Robert Lawson, was presented to the Presbytery by James Caldwell, which being offered to Mr. Lawson by the moderator, he took it into consideration, with promise to give the people an answer as soon as the circumstances of his affairs would allow.

The Presbytery received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Thomas Reynolds, wherein he obliges himself to advance thirty pounds for the year 1713, to be disposed of by the Presbytery. Appointed that a letter of thanks be writ to him by Mr. George McNish, and Mr. Robert Lawson, against the next *sederunt.**

Received a letter from Mr. Wotherspoon, with his credentials enclosed, (which were well approved,) as also a letter from the people of Apoquinimy, requesting that he may be ordained and settled among them as their minister, the consideration of which is delayed till to-morrow.

Mr. Andrews delivered his Presbyterial exercise, which was approved.

London, December 24, 1712.

* Reverend and dear Brethren:—Having this opportunity by our good brother, Mr. Robert Lawson, I could not but signify the concern I have for the interest of our common Lord in your parts, and let you know, that if it will be of service to support one or more ministers to spread the gospel in those parts about you, where it may be most needful, I do, for my own part, engage for the year coming, to advance thirty pounds, to be paid to any you shall appoint here in London to receive it, upon condition that I have first some timely advice of it by letter from our Rev. Brother Mr. Lawson, the bearer hereof. And if in after years I may be in a capacity, I shall do what I can to serve you. I desire to hear from you as soon as may be, and should be glad to be an instrument of disappointing any that can encourage no expectation from us. Praying the Lord abundantly to prosper the great work in your hand, I am, in great sincerity, your affectionate brother.—[*Letter Book.*] THOMAS REYNOLDS.

The Presbytery held at New Castle, *September* 17, 1713, to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Reynolds, in London.

Reverend Sir:—We received your letter dated December 24, 1712, per the Rev. Mr. Robert Lawson, and after blessing God that any, especially of your character, regards us, the skirts of Christ's Church in this American wilderness, we applaud your generous and public spirit, and make a return of our hearty and best wishes with the utmost gratitude, and so much the more, that though we have often addressed several of the reverend ministers of London, you are the first and only one who hath taken notice of us by letter.

Sir, your seasonable bounty for the relief of some weak congregations, unable of themselves to subsist at present in maintaining their own ministers, makes the conduct of Divine Providence the more remarkable unto us.

We shall be faithful in a just application of the same according to your direction. Dear sir, give us leave humbly to request the continuance of your concern for us, and the interest of Christ in these parts; and moreover that you use your interest, which we know to be great, with others for engaging their Christian liberality in order to aid necessitous places; want of support to ministers, in many corners, being a mighty bar to the spreading of the gospel.

Our Rev. Brother, Mr. Robert Lawson, will advise how the money you so kindly promise, shall be disposed of. We humbly salute, &c. and pray, &c.—[*Letter Book.*]

A letter from the people of Cohanzy, desiring advice about the choice of a minister, being presented to the Presbytery by Mr. Ephraim Sayre, it was agreed, in answer to the said letter, that our Rev. Brother, Mr. Howell Powell, do officiate as minister of the gospel among them till the next Presbytery or at his discretion.

Adjourned till to-morrow, eight o'clock.

17 *day, Die Jovis, at eight o'clock.*

The business of Mr. Wotherspoon and the people of Apoquinimy came again into consideration, upon which the Presbytery appointed as follows, That Masters Andrews, Anderson, Powell, Jones, and Gillespie, do manage in the affair between Mr. Wotherspoon and the people of Apoquinimy, that after a formal call presented before them by the said people of Apoquinimy, they, at their own discretion, appoint the said Mr. Wotherspoon to pass his trials before them, and that if they shall be fully satisfied as to his qualifications, they proceed to his ordination, and settlement among that people.

Appointed, That Mr. Andrews write a letter to Mr. Wotherspoon, and bring it in the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

P. M.

Mr. Andrews writ the letter to Mr. Wotherspoon according to appointment, and it was approved.

Mr. McNish, Lawson, and Henry, writ an answer to Mr. Reynold's letter, which was approved. (See preceding note.)

Upon the desire of the people of Welsh Tract, it was ordered, that Mr. David Evans reside and preach amongst them till the next Presbytery.

Inquiry was made, according to a former appointment, of ministers and the people's representatives, concerning the mutual affairs between ministers and people, in their respective congregations.

Mr. Gillespie ordered to write a letter to the Synod of Glasgow.*

Ordered, That Masters McNish, McGill, Henry, and Gillespie, apply the thirty pounds promised to this Presbytery by the Rev. Thomas Reynolds, of London, to what members of the Presbytery they think fit.

Ordered, That Mr. Wotherspoon have a Presbyterial Exercise the next Presbytery upon Heb. i. 13.

The next Presbytery appointed to be held at Philadelphia on the first Tuesday of September, 1714.

1714.

At a Presbytery held at Philadelphia, which began

September 7th, 1714.

Where were present:

Ministers: Mr. John Hampton, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. James Anderson, Mr. Daniel McGill, Mr. George Gillespie, Mr. Howell Powell, Mr. Robert Wotherspoon.

Elders: Samuel Hopkins, Joseph Yard, Alexander Beal, Hugh Porter, Hans Hanson, Joseph Sealy, John Gardner, Segfrigus Alricks.

Mr. Andrews was chosen moderator, and Mr. Anderson clerk.

Mr. Morgan's reasons for his absence last year, as also this year, were sustained.

Mr. Davis, Henry, and McNish, absent.

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* *Memorandum.*

That Mr. George Gillespie writ the letter to the Synod of Glasgow as was appointed. —[*Letter Book.*]

The affair of Mr. Van Vleck's suspension continued for further consideration and inquiry, until next *sederunt.*

The affair of Mr. McNish's absence and preaching referred, to be considered at next *sederunt.*

The affair of Mr. Howell Powell referred, to be considered at the next *sederunt.*

The minutes relating to Mr. Robert Lawson's call to Monokin, contained in the last year's proceedings, being read, it was found that he departed this life November last year.

It was reported by the ministers appointed to transact the affair relating to Mr. Wotherspoon's ordination, that they in compliance with the last year's minutes, did solemnly by prayer, fasting, and imposition of hands, ordain the said Mr. Robert Wotherspoon, unto the sacred function and office of the ministry, to the Presbyterian congregation at Apoquinimy, upon the 13th day of May, 1714.*

There has been no answer as yet from the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, concerning a letter writ last year by this Presbytery to him.

Mr. David Evans obeyed his appointment with respect to his residing and preaching at Welsh-Tract.

Mr. Robert Wotherspoon having not provided his Presbyterial exercise according to appointment; it was ordered that he should provide it against next year's meeting, and that he preach a sermon upon Thursday next, here; and that the moderator should Presbyterially admonish him to be more careful for time coming, which accordingly was done.

The condition of several desolate places being represented by some members, the consideration of it was referred to the next *sederunt.*

After which the Presbytery was adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Wednesday, 7br. 8th, at 9 o'clock, Ante M. sederunt ut supra.

The last minutes came to be read.

The affair of Mr. Van Vleck was referred till to-morrow.

Mr. McNish's affair also continued.

The Presbytery having considered that their brother, Mr. Powell, had used diligence to procure further credentials, according to the last year's minutes, but not having as yet received answers from England, and we being further satisfied by so long trial and personal acquaintance, together with other considerable circumstances, and now an unanimous call being presented to us for him, from the people of Cohanzy, the Presbytery, after mature deliberation, did sustain the call, but withal, recommended to him as formerly, that he procure letters from England *ut supra.*

Appointed that Mr. Hampton and Mr. McGill write a letter to Mr. Thomas Reynolds against to-morrow afternoon.

The Presbytery taking into consideration the desolate condition of the people in Kent County, have appointed our brother, Mr. James Anderson, that he

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* *Memorandum.*

It being appointed the last Presbytery, that the ordination of Mr. Robert Wotherspoon, should be left to the discretion of diverse ministers who are named in the minutes; the said members having heard him preach a popular sermon on Heb. vi. 19; received his *exegesis* on a question *de sanctorum perseverantia*, taken on account of his skill in the original languages, and likewise his attainments and orthodoxy in theological matters, to their satisfaction, did on the 13th day of May, 1714, set apart the said Mr. Wotherspoon unto the work of the ministry.

supply them with preaching, &c., one Sabbath in the month till the next Presbytery, and that there be a letter accordingly writ to them by the moderator, signifying the Presbytery's concern with relation to them, and that it be brought in to-morrow.

Afterwards adjourned till 3 o'clock afternoon.

Post Meridiem, 3 *o'clock, sederunt ut supra.*

The call from the people of Cohanzy being read and presented to Mr. Howell Powell by the moderator, was by him accepted; whereupon the Presbytery appointed Mr. Jedediah Andrews to preach his admission sermon, at the time that shall be agreed upon betwixt the people and him.

The Presbytery taking into consideration the desolate condition, and also the desire of the people at Cedar Creek, have, in order to their being supplied as much as at this juncture can be, appointed as follows: that Mr. George Gillespie preach there the third Sabbath of October, Mr. Wotherspoon the third Sabbath of November; and if Mr. Anderson can, he is desired to go upon the third Sabbath of March; as also Mr. Hampton on the third Sabbath of June; Mr. Evans is appointed to go the third Sabbath of April; and Mr. Bradner the third Sabbath of May; and Mr. John Henry on the third Sabbath of July. And it is appointed that Mr. Davis preach the third Sabbath of February, and that he preach there at other times as often as he can.

An unanimous call from the people of Welsh Tract to Mr. David Evans, being presented to us and approven, we offered it to him, which he accepted; whereupon it was appointed as follows, viz:

That Messrs. Jedediah Andrews, Jones, Anderson, Gillespie, and Wotherspoon, solemnly ordain him to the work and office of the ministry, after having been satisfied with his ministerial abilities, in any pieces of trial they shall think fit to appoint him.

The supplication of the people of Cape May, with respect to Mr. John Bradner, preacher, being presented by David Wells, in the name of the rest of that people, was read, and the further consideration of that affair was referred until the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

Die Jovis at 9 *o'clock, sederunt ut supra.*

The letter of the moderator to the people of Kent County, was read and approven.

This day Mr. Davis and Henry came, and the reason of their absence until this time was sustained.

It is reported that Mr. Samuel Davis, Mr. Hampton, and Mr. Henry, having upon good and sufficient reasons taken Mr. John Bradner under trials in order to his being licenced to preach the gospel, and having gone through the ordinary pieces of trial, and being satisfied with him therein, as also with respect to the orthodoxy of his faith, did license him accordingly in March last; which was approven.

The petition and call from the people of Cape May, with respect to Mr. Bradner, being now considered, and he having accepted of their call and petition, it is appointed that Messrs. Davis, Andrews, Anderson, Powell, and Wotherspoon, take the said Mr. Bradner under trials in order to his being ordained in that place, and that they proceed in the aforesaid affair as they shall see fit.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, afternoon.

P. M. 3 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

The letter appointed to be writ to Mr. Reynolds by Mr. Hampton and McGill, was read and approven.*

The Rev. Mr. Malachi Jones, having offered himself to be a member of this Presbytery, the Presbytery taking his affair into consideration, and being very well satisfied as to his ordination and other qualifications, did heartily accept of his offer, and accordingly admitted him.

There being diverse people in the Great Valley with whom Mr. David Evans has been concerned, it was queried whether said people should be looked upon as a part of the church and congregation of the Welsh-Tract, or a distinct body by themselves, and it was carried by the Presbytery that they be esteemed a distinct society.

Inquiry was made according to a former appointment, of the ministers and the people's representatives, concerning their mutual affairs, betwixt ministers and people in their respective congregations.

Mr. McNish his Presbyterial exercise is appointed to be delivered the next year, the reason of his absence now not being known to the Presbytery.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 7 o'clock.

At 7 o'clock, A. M. sederunt ut supra.

For the better establishing and settling congregations, it is ordered and appointed that in every congregation there be a sufficient number of assistants chosen, to aid the minister in the management of congregational affairs, and that there be a book of records for that effect, and that the same be annually brought here to be revised by the Presbytery.

The business of Mr. Paul Van Vleck being come again under consideration, it is determined that the censure of suspension which he already lies under should continue; and that Mr. Andrews and Mr. McNish make further in-

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* To Mr. Thomas Reynolds, Minister in London.

7 *br.* 10*th*, 1714.

Reverend Sir:—We hope that you've received our former letter, in which, according to duty, we did return you our hearty thanks for that Christian and charitable spirit which had discovered itself in you, and your zeal in order to the support of the gospel among us; and at the same time we intimated to you how we had applied, in the most charitable manner, that money which you had dedicated to the support of God's works in these parts, namely, ten pounds sterling for Philadelphia, ten for New Castle, and ten for our dear and now deceased brother, Mr. Robert Lawson. As also we earnestly intimated the continuance of the same favour for the same purposes. But neither we nor the gentlemen concerned have received, as yet, any answer from you. If it shall suit with your pleasure and convenience, to continue the same favour, as your former was applied according to our disposal, dear brother, there is the same prospect of advancing God's work in these parts of the world, several applications being made to us for supply; but we being so few in number, places being so far distant, and we having no ministers among us but pastors of congregations, and not being in a capacity to maintain any itinerant preachers, who might be helpful in order to the propagation of the gospel; we must with great concern intimate unto you, that notwithstanding of all that possibly we can do, the work of the Lord must suffer. We hope you will consider and improve what we have narrated concerning our present circumstances, and shall expect to hear from you the first opportunity, which shall be very gratifying to, Reverend Sir, your fellow labourers in the work of the gospel of Christ.

P. S. Dear Sir:—We judge it worthy of your consideration, that in the province of Pennsylvania and territories, and also in the Jerseys, there is no conformable ministry according to the Church of England established, and therefore you may easily perceive that this is the proper season for advancing the gospel in the truth and purity. Yours, *ut supra.*

P. S. 2d. Mr. McNish, per order from us, wrote you upon the premises last fall.—[*Letter Book.*]

quiry concerning his circumstances and condition, by writing to Holland or otherwise, and make report the next Presbytery.

The reasons of Mr. McNish his absence until this *sederunt*, were heard and sustained.

Mr. Samuel Davis having not delivered his Presbyterial exercise formerly appointed him on Heb. i. 4, it is ordered that he have it next year.

The place appointed for the next Presbytery is New Castle, and to be held on the third Tuesday of September, in the year 1715.

And so afterwards the Presbytery was dissolved.

1715.

At a Presbytery held at New Castle,

September 20*th*, 1715.

Ministers present: Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. George McNish, Mr. John Hampton, Mr. James Anderson, Mr. Daniel McGill, Mr. Howell Powell, Mr. George Gillespie, Mr. Robert Wotherspoon, Mr. Malachi Jones, Mr. David Evans, Mr. John Bradner.

Elders present: Nathaniel Hopkins, Joseph Yard, Sylvester Garland, William Scott, James Alexander, Ephraim Sayer, Thomas Heywood, John Parsons, Evan Rowland.

Mr. Hampton was chosen moderator, and Mr. Evans clerk.

Ordered, That the last years' minutes be read over.

Messrs. Davis, Henry, and Morgan, were absent.

Mr. Wotherspoon delivered his Presbyterial exercise according to appointment, and it was approved of.

It being appointed by the last Presbytery, that Mr. Howell Powell should get further credentials from England, the Presbytery is now satisfied in that matter.

Our brother, Mr. Anderson, hath supplied the people of Kent County according to appointment.

Mr. Andrews preached Mr. Powell's admission sermon the fifteenth day of October last, according to appointment.

The supplies that were appointed for the people of Cedar Creek by the last Presbytery, were complied with.

The ministers appointed last year to ordain Mr. David Evans, did upon the third day of November last, by fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands, solemnly set him apart to the work of the ministry among the people of Welsh Tract, having been satisfied with his ministerial qualifications.*

The Rev. Mr. Andrews, Powell, and Evans, with the approbation of the other ministers mentioned in the last year's minutes, having taken an account of Mr. John Bradner's ministerial qualifications to their satisfaction, did upon the 6th day of May last, by fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands, solemnly set apart the said Mr. Bradner to the work of the ministry among the people of Cape May.†

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* *Memorandum.*

It being appointed the last Presbytery, that the ordination of Mr. David Evans should be left to the discretion of diverse ministers mentioned in the minutes; the said members having heard him preach a popular sermon on Romans iii, 31, received his *exegesis* on a question *de necessitate specialis Spiritus Sancti operationis ad conversionem*, taken an account of his skill in the original languages, and likewise of his attainments and orthodoxy in theological matters, to their satisfaction, did on the third day of November, 1714, ordain the said Mr. Evans to the work of the ministry.—[*Letter Book.*]

† *Memorandum*

It being appointed the last Presbytery that the ordination of Mr. John Bradner should be left to the discretion and management of sundry ministers mentioned in the book of

The affair of Mr. Reynolds his letter referred to the next *sederunt.*

The inquiry about matters between ministers and people, and session-books, referred till afterwards.

The affair of Mr. Van Vleck referred to next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till to-morrow, eight o'clock.

21 *day, Wednesday, sessione* 2*da. sederunt ut supra.*

The minute concerning Mr. Reynolds his affair, continued till the next *sederunt.*

Mr. Van Vleck's affair also continued till the next *sederunt.*

Mr. James Gordon having presented a call from the people of Baltimore county, in Maryland, unto Mr. Hugh Conn, the Presbytery called for, considered, and approved the said Mr. Conn's credentials as a preacher of the gospel, and likewise considered and approved the call, which being presented by the moderator unto the said Mr. Conn, he accepted of it, whereupon it was appointed that Mr. McGill, Anderson, Gillespie, Wotherspoon, and Evans, after being satisfied with his ministerial abilities, should solemnly by prayer, fasting, and imposition of hands, ordain him unto the work of the ministry among the abovesaid people, the third Thursday of October next.

Mr. Philip Ringo having presented a call from the people of Maidenhead and Hopewell, in West Jersey, unto Mr. Robert Orr, the Presbytery called for, considered of, and approved the said Mr. Orr his credentials as a preacher of the gospel, and likewise considered of, and approved the call, which being presented by the moderator unto the said Mr. Orr, he accepted of it, whereupon it was appointed that Mr. Andrews, Powell, McNish, Jones, and Morgan, after having been satisfied with the said Mr. Orr his ministerial abilities, should solemnly ordain him by fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands, unto the work of the ministry among the said people of Hopewell and Maidenhead, on the third Wednesday of October next.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

Post Meridiem, three o'clock. Post preces sederunt ut supra.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews and Mr. McGill write to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Reynolds, of London, to maintain the correspondence that hath been between the Presbytery and him.*

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minutes; two of the said number, viz: Mr. Andrews and Mr. Powell, in conjunction with Mr. David Evans, and with the approbation of the rest of the ministers concerned, went to Cape May on that errand. And they having heard the said Mr. Bradner preach a popular sermon from Phil. ii. 12, 13, received his *exegesis, De materia Justificationis,* taken an account of his skill in the original tongues, and also of his attainments and orthodoxy in Divinity to their satisfaction, did on the sixth day of May, 1715, ordain the said Mr. Bradner to the work of the ministry.

Mr. Andrews preached the admission sermon of Mr. Powell at Cohanzy.—[*Letter Book.*]

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* To Mr. Thomas Reynolds, in London.

September 23, 1715.

Reverend Sir:—We thought fit at this our anniversary, (as we did likewise last year,) to transmit a few lines expressive of our desire, that a correspondence, which you were pleased to begin by your kind letter the year before last, may be continued and strengthened, and as a testification of our thankfulness that a person of your character, (when so many have, to our frequent disappointment neglected us,) should not only refresh us with your letter, but also show your Christian desire for the success of the gospel in these parts, by a generous offer of your help for its support, which to our satisfaction we

Mr. Andrews and Mr. McNish made report concerning Van Vleck, that he is run out of the country, and that they, having writ to Holland according to appointment, had not yet received any answer.

Mr. McNish delivered his Presbyterial exercise, and was approven.

Mr. Samuel Gelston presented credentials of his being licensed to preach the gospel, which were considered and approved, and he was appointed to preach the next day.

A letter being presented by Mr. McNish from Mr. John Thomson, probationer, lately come into the country, desiring the advice and assistance of the Presbytery, it was ordered that Mr. Powell write a letter to him in answer to his.

Adjourned till eight o'clock next day.

22 *day. Thursday, eight o'clock, sederunt ut supra.*

Mr. Powell writ the letter to Mr. Thomson according to appointment, and it was approved.

Mr. Davis his letter was read, and the reasons for his and Mr. Henry's absence were considered and sustained.

A motion being made by the people of Lewistown concerning their being supplied with another minister besides Mr. Davis, the Presbytery taking into consideration the state of that people, and their said desire to have a minister to officiate statedly among them, and that Mr. Davis has had no pastoral relation in particular to that people; and considering also, that the present condition and posture of Mr. Davis his affairs will not allow of his being a fixed, stated pastor to the said people, and the said Davis his willingness that there may be a minister provided, (as some of our members have signified to us,) the Presbytery doth, therefore, appoint that Mr. Andrews, Hampton, and Anderson, write to Mr. Davis, and the people of Lewis, signifying that the Presbytery approves their desire, and will take care to have them supplied with a minister as soon as they can.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews, McNish, and Gillespie, write a letter to the people of Patuxent, in relation to the present posture of their affairs there.

Inquiry was made concerning the respective affairs between ministers and their congregations, as usual.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

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hear has been complied withal. And it's no small comfort to us, that Mr. Hugh Conn gives information of your willingness to continue your bounty for the use abovesaid, which as it would be very acceptable, so it's no less necessary than heretofore. As we accept your Christian bounty in good part, and value it as a mark of our common Lord's goodness and care to the support of his servants in narrow circumstances among us, so we crave leave to beg your pious concern for our common interest, in moving your public spirited friends to go into the same good design for supporting our ministers, (that is, those among us, who without some help besides what their own poor congregations are able to give, are straitened,) by some annual gratuity. And we can truly assure you, that your former kindness was applied, as near as we could apprehend, according to your intention in bestowing it. The reason of our expressing ourselves after this manner, is from an information as though you had some particular regard to the Jersies, which, as we were altogether unsensible of, so we are well satisfied, if there were any such thing, it proceeded from your not being fully acquainted with the condition of these provinces. We are much concerned that we received no return in answer to our last, though we have ground to think that it's not from your forgetfulness of us, but the miscarriage of your letters, Mr. Conn having acquainted us that he had letters for some of us, and left them for conveyance, but they are not yet arrived, and we fear are now quite lost, which makes us the more desirous of hearing from you by the first opportunity. We salute you heartily in the Lord, &c.—[*Letter Book*.]

P. M.

Mr. Andrews, Hampton, and Anderson, writ the letter to Mr. Davis and the people of Lewis, and it was approved.*

In pursuance of an act made last Presbytery appointing every minister to appoint assistants and session books, &c. and in regard diverse of the ministers have not complied with the designs of said act, it was therefore ordered, that the several ministers come with said books, and perform the other end of the said act as it is specified therein.

Adjourned till eight o'clock the next day.

23 *day. Die Veneris, post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Pumry, minister at Newtown, on Long Island, offered himself to be a member of this Presbytery, and was heartily and unanimously accepted, he promising subjection to the Presbytery, in the Lord.

The Presbytery taking into consideration that the people of Woodbridge have not the sealing ordinances administered among them, from hearty concern for that people, (who have been their care formerly,) did appoint Mr. Andrews to write pressingly to the said people, that they use utmost diligence to have a minister ordained to labour and officiate statedly among them, that the great want they are in of the ordinances may be speedily supplied.

It is appointed that Mr. Andrews write to Mr. Pierson to the effect above-said, and report to the next Presbytery.

The Presbytery taking into their consideration the desolate condition of the people of Kent county, and their desire to be supplied, appointed Mr. Samuel Gelston to supply them upon trial, with the advice of the neighbouring ministers.

The letter to the people of Patuxent was read and approved.†

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* To Mr. Davis, and others, at Lewis.

September 22, 1715.

Dear Brother Davis, and Christian friends at Lewis:—Having taken into our serious consideration the present condition with respect to a better establishment of the gospel in your parts, we came to the following determinations; that there never having yet been a pastoral relation betwixt you, nor likely to be, according to our best apprehension, we have judged it best for the glory of God, and your future comforts, to leave you each to your choice, to provide yourselves as you can for your spiritual interests, and the increase of Christ's kingdom. Not doubting but in the mean time you will maintain a Christian correspondence, and be mutually as comfortable to one another as your circumstances will allow; our Brother Davis by preaching, when at home, and until another supply be found, and our Christian friends by thankfully acknowledging the same. And as to a settled ministry, there is one Mr. Thompson now arrived at York, with his wife and family, concerning whom Mr. McNish will, in a little time, give you further advice. And in case this should fail, we recommend you to your neighbouring ministers for advice. Recommending you to the Lord, and the word of his grace, we remain yours, &c.—[*Letter Book.*]

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† To our Christian Friends at (Patuxent or) Marlborough, Maryland.

September, 1715.

Christian Friends:—Among other valuable friends who justly demand our concern for their best interests, we were very willing to remember you, and the weighty matters that belong to our common Lord and Saviour in your congregation. We cannot but represent it to you, as a thing which ourselves have had much comfort in hearing from our brother and your reverend pastor, that when, (as is our practice,) he was interrogate touching the manner of his people's deportment towards him in his pastoral office, he made his answer wholly to their advantage, and with a pleasing earnestness to commend them, as made it apparent to us he had good cause for what he spoke. Notwithstanding we cannot but signify to our good friends, how sensibly some things among you affect us. The love we bear to our common Lord's interest among you gives us

Appointed, That Mr. Gillespie and Mr. McGill preach the Presbyterial exercises next year. Mr. Gillespie from ver. 14, of Heb. i., and Mr. McGill from Heb. ii. ver. 1.

It is appointed that it be recommended to all and every member of this Presbytery, that betwixt this and our next meeting they may think of, and prepare, what they may judge most necessary to be presented to our Presbytery for the common or particular good of all or any of us.

Appointed, That the next Presbytery be held at Philadelphia upon the third Tuesday of September, 1716.

1716.

At a Presbytery held at Philadelphia,

September 18*th*, 1716. *Post preces sederunt*

Mr. Hampton moderator, Mr. Andrews, Mr. McNish, Mr. John Henry, Mr. James Anderson, Mr. George Gillespie, Mr. Pumry, Mr. Orr, ministers.

John Dredden, David Giffin, John Steel, Enoch Anderson, elders.

Absent ministers, Masters McGill, Powell, Bradner, Jones, Conn, Wotherspoon, Evans, Morgan, and Davis, and their elders.

Mr. McNish was chosen moderator, and Mr. Anderson clerk.

Mr. Edmundson being present as a representative of the congregation of Patuxent, and their minister absent, it was put to the vote, whether the said Mr. Edmundson should act here as a representative notwithstanding the minister's absence, and carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente.*

The last year's minutes were ordered to be read.

Mr. Morgan's absence the last and this year referred to the next *sederunt*, to be considered.

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great uneasiness at hearing any of Satan's devices threatening your gospel peace, and the mutual love the followers of Christ are strictly bound to cultivate among themselves. We pray the God of all grace to recover what of the sweet fruits of this is lost, or in danger to be lost among you, and that you may be one in the Lord, and one among yourselves in the spirit of true holiness, meekness, truth, love, and mutual forbearance. If these things be your study, who can doubt but the Lord will make them your happy attainment? We recommend to you, and expect your ready compliance with, a few proposals, which we hope will be taken with the same loving mind as they are written, and it is in your power to make them helpful to your present condition. We heartily recommend it you, that you watch against all attempts of Satan to infringe your Christian harmony and union, which is your beauty and strength. Now God has given you an uncommon season, and advantage for bearing testimony to his interest among you, how much you love him and it; if there are temptations in your way, to maintain union, the blessings will be so great and universal that you cannot over-do in all Christian methods to preserve it. Herein appear for God, and for the house of God, which ye know is not divided against itself, neither should the children of the same God against one another. Satan's policy and malice has appeared in his attempts to divide you, but it will no less show you are the children of the God of peace and love, when you break through his snares to maintain your union, and concentre in gospel peace and love among yourselves. Particularly we recommend to you that with firmness and godly resolution you oppose yourselves to all dividing measures. We apprehend that the disproportion between the number of your elders and deacons, may occasion some uneasiness in your session, but hope you will find it no hard matter to prevent any ill consequence in this. We need only represent unto you the ends and institution of Scripture deacons, and that there is no juridical power allowed them in the Scripture. We recommend earnestly to you a Christian regard to our worthy brother your pastor, and that you encourage, honour, and obey him in the Lord, that his labours, as they are for his people, so they may turn to your and his account in the day of the Lord. Lastly, we expect your acquiesence in our last year's act, touching sessions and session books, which we presume you know to be agreeable to the laudable practice of the best reformed churches. This letter has been judged needful, according to the representation made us by your messenger, Mr. Scott. Thus recommending you to glorious grace, we rest, &c.—[*Letter Book.*]

The appointment with respect to Mr. Con's ordination was fulfilled, and Mr. Wotherspoon and Mr. Evans being absent, the inquiry into the reasons thereof was referred till next *sederunt.*

Mr. Orr was ordained at Maidenhead, according to appointment, only Masters McNish, Jones, and Powell were absent, the reasons whereof were heard and sustained; and in the room of those, three other ministers assisted.*

A letter from the people of Patuxent being read, the further consideration thereof referred till another *sederunt.*

After the reading of Mr. Andrews his letters, which by the last Presbytery he was appointed to write to the people of Woodbridge and Mr. Pierson, the Presbytery were well satisfied with them both.

A letter from Mr. Pierson to be communicated to the Presbytery in answer to the letter sent to him by Mr. Andrews was read, and the fuller consideration of it referred till next *sederunt.*

Mr. Gelston's supply of Kent county, the consideration of it referred till afterwards.

The appointment made last year about bringing in overtures to the next Presbytery referred till afterwards.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

Wednesday, eight o'clock, post preces sederunt, &c.

Yesterday's minutes ordered to be read.

Mr. McNish's reasons for not bringing an elder or representative with him, were heard and sustained.

Mr. Henry's representative of the congregation being absent, and his reasons for not coming being inquired into, he said the present condition of his people made it necessary that there should be a particular collection made by the congregation for defraying the charges of the representative to the Presbytery, and it was allowed that there should.

The reasons of Mr. Pumry's elder's absence were inquired into and sustained.

Mr. McGill's absence excused on account of his sickness.

Mr. Jones being absent yesterday, did this day give the reasons of his absence, which were sustained.

Mr. Wotherspoon's reasons of his absence this Presbytery, given by letter, were sustained.

Mr. Evans his absence yesterday being inquired into, he acknowledged he was blamable for not coming sooner.

Mr. Morgan's absence this and several years by-past being inquired into, it was resolved, that a letter should be writ, informing him that if he comes not, nor sends sufficient reasons against next year, we shall take it for granted that he has altogether deserted us. The letter to be writ by Mr. Andrews.

Adjourned till after sermon.

After sermon, sederunt, &c.

Mr. Gillespie's Presbyterial exercise was animadverted upon and approved.

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* *Memorandum.*

Mr. Robert Orr having performed those points of trial assigned him to satisfaction, namely, preached a popular sermon from James ii. 24, and given an exegesis on that question, *An foedus circumcisione signatum, a foedere Evangelico essentialiter differat?* and also answered to various interlocutory questions touching theological matters, and given a specimen of his attainments in other parts of learning to good approbation, he the said Mr. Orr, was, on the 20th day of October, 1715, solemnly set apart to the work of the ministry, by Masters Andrews, Morgan, Dickinson, Evans, and Bradner, at Maidenhead, before a numerous assembly.—[*Letter Book.*]

The reasons of Mr. Wotherspoon's absence from Mr. Con's ordination and this Presbytery, were by letter given and sustained.

Mr. Evans his absence from Mr. Con's ordination, was ill taken by the Presbytery.

The letter from the people of Patuxent, in answer to one from us last year, was read the second time to our great satisfaction.

The consideration of Mr. Pierson's letter, referred till we hear from the people of Woodbridge.

The Presbytery having taken into their serious consideration the affair of Mr. Gelston, in relation to the people of Kent, have found ground to, and did censure his not going back to the people of Kent, according to his promise to them. As for all his other conduct among that people, they themselves in their letter to us commend him.

Adjourned till to-morrow 9 o'clock, in the morning.

Thursday, at 9 o'clock, sederunt, &c.

The affair of Kent being taken into the Presbyteries consideration, from a Christian sense of the want of the ordinances among them, at present have, for their encouragement, appointed Mr. Davis, Gillespie, Wotherspoon, and Evans, to preach in the county of Kent each once betwixt this and the next Presbytery; that is to say Mr. Gillespie on the third Sabbath of October, Mr. Wotherspoon the third Sabbath of April, Mr. Davis the third Sabbath of June, Mr. Evans the third Sabbath of May. And it is likewise ordered, that Mr. Anderson do preach to the said people of Kent once in every month till the next Presbytery, provided he find suitable encouragement. Appointed also, that a letter be writ to the people of Cedar-Creek and Kent in answer to theirs, by Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hampton.

A call from the people of South-Hampton, on Long-Island, to Mr. Gelston, wherein the said people do subject themselves to us in the Lord, as a Presbytery, being presented to us in the name of their representatives, we did tender it to the said Mr. Gelston, and he accepted it. Upon which the Presbytery, understanding that our brethren, Masters McNish and Pumry had prescribed him a popular sermon on John xiv. 6, and an *exegesis, De libero arbitrio*, to be delivered this Presbytery, if the Presbytery thought fit, as a part of trial in order to ordination, did appoint him to deliver the popular sermon to-morrow.

The business of bringing in overtures to the Presbytery, referred to another *sederunt*.

A call from the people in and about Lewis-Town, to Mr. John Thomson, being by William Shankland, commissioner from the said people, laid before us and read, and he being himself absent by reason of sickness; but having in a letter to us signified his willingness to submit to what the Presbytery should think expedient for that people and his own good, did appoint that the said call be tendered to Mr. Thomson by Mr. Hampton, and upon his acceptance, the Presbytery does appoint Masters Davis, Hampton, Henry, Wotherspoon, Anderson, Gillespie, Evans, and Bradner, to take his trials, and upon their satisfaction to proceed to ordination upon the first Wednesday of April next; and that the ordination sermon be preached by Mr. Henry, or in his absence by Mr. Hampton.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

Mr. Powell's absence sustained on account of his sickness, which he signified to us by his letter.

The affair of Woodbridge coming into consideration, the Presbytery ordered that Mr. McNish and Mr. Pumry should fully discourse Mr. Pierson and the people there, concerning the causes of his non-ordination among them, and to do their best for removing any obstacle that may at present hinder his ordination; and if the Divine Providence shall thereby happily remove all obstructions, that then Mr. McNish and Mr. Pumry shall represent the same unto Mr. Andrews and other neighbouring ministers of the Presbytery; and the Presbytery does appoint, that in case all the said obstructions be fairly removed, upon the request of the people, with the concurrence of Mr. Pierson, that then the said people do apply to Mr. Andrews, Mr. Jones, Mr. Orr, Mr. Pumry, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Bradner, for the ordination of the said Mr. Pierson among them, and that they ordain him, as they shall upon trial find satisfaction, and do appoint that the ordination sermon be preached by Mr. Andrews or Mr. Powell, as they shall agree.

Inquiry was made according to a former appointment of the ministers and the people's representatives, concerning their mutual affairs betwixt ministers and people in their respective congregations.

Adjourned till half an hour after eight in the morning.

Die Veneris at half an hour after eight o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

A letter from Mr. Davis came this day to us, wherein he gave reasons for his absence at this Presbytery, which were sustained.

This day a letter from the people of Woodbridge was read and considered. The Presbytery are very well satisfied with the proposals made to Mr. Pierson for his settlement among them, and do judge if Mr. Pierson make any other or higher demands upon that people, his demands shall be accounted unreasonable, and the people are not to be blamed for refusing them. And in that case it is recommended to the people, that they look out for another minister.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

At 3 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

Mr. Gelston's popular sermon was delivered, and after remarks thereupon, it was put to the vote, whether it should be accepted of as a part of his trials for ordination, which was carried in the affirmative.

It having pleased Divine Providence so to increase our number, as that, after much deliberation, we judge it may be more serviceable to the interest of religion, to divide ourselves into subordinate meetings or Presbyteries, constituting one annually as a synod, to meet at Philadelphia or elsewhere, to consist of all the members of each subordinate Presbytery or meeting for this year at least: Therefore it is agreed by the Presbytery, after serious deliberation, that the first subordinate meeting or Presbytery, to meet at Philadelphia or elsewhere, as they shall see fit, do consist of these following members, viz: Masters Andrews, Jones, Powell, Orr, Bradner, and Morgan. And the second to meet at New Castle or elsewhere, as they shall see fit, to consist of those, viz: Masters Anderson, McGill, Gillespie, Wotherspoon, Evans, and Conn. The third to

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* *Memorandum.*

Mr. John Pierson having performed these points of trial assigned him, viz: preached a popular sermon from Tit. iii. 8, delivered an *exegesis* on that question, *an justificatio nostra sit ab æterno aut in tempore præstita*, answered to many questions touching theological matters, and also discovered his skill in the original languages; all which being done to satisfaction, the said Mr. Pierson was ordained and set apart to the work of the ministry at Woodbridge, on the 29th day of April, 1717, by Masters Andrews, Pridden, Morgan, Orr, and Dickenson, before a very great assembly.

meet at Snow-Hill or elsewhere, to consist of these, viz: Masters Davis, Hampton, and Henry. And in consideration that only our brethren Mr. McNish and Mr. Pumry, are of our number upon Long-Island at present, we earnestly recommend it to them to use their best endeavours with the neighbouring brethren that are settled there, which as yet join not with us, to join with them in erecting a fourth Presbytery. And as to the time of the meeting of the respective Presbyteries, it is ordered that that be left to their own discretion.

Ordered, That a book be kept by each of the said Presbyteries, containing a record of their proceedings, and that the said book be brought every year to our anniversary Synod to be revised.

It is appointed by this Presbytery, that the affair of Mr. Pumry, with relation to his people of Newton, on Long-Island, come under the consideration of the first Presbyterial meeting that shall be upon the said Long-Island; and if there shall not be such a meeting or Presbytery in some reasonable time, and if the said Mr. Pumry have not his grievances redressed, that then it be left to Mr. McNish and himself to determine as prudence shall direct, and be accountable to our next general meeting or Synod.

With respect to session-books, mentioned in our last year's minutes, it is ordered, that they be brought into and revised by the respective Presbyteries, to which they shall after this time, according to our preceding appointment, belong.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock, in the morning.

At 8 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

Our next meeting being appointed as a Synod, it is ordered that the present moderator open the same by preaching; and that the Moderator of the last Synod open the next by preaching always for the time coming upon the first Tuesday of our meeting, at 10 o'clock.

That the matter of Mr. Gelston's further trial and ordination, be entirely referred to Mr. McNish and Pumry, with what brethren they can there engage to join with them presbyterially on Long-Island.

Ordered, That the business of further overtures be continued, to be brought in to our next annual Synod.

Appointed that the first meeting of our said Synod be at Philadelphia, on the third Tuesday of September, in the year 1717.

Adjourned till the third Tuesday of September, in the year 1717.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the peculiar difficulties with which this early Presbytery had to contend, and to which allusion is made in their records and correspondence, it received an annual accession to its numbers, and the growth of the infant Church became each year more promising. It will be perceived that at their meeting in September, 1716, the Presbytery had become so much enlarged, that it was resolved to divide it into four subordinate judicatories, or Presbyteries, which should be constituent members of an annual Synod, which assumed the name of the Synod of Philadelphia. This measure seemed to be dictated as well by convenience, as by a regard to the general interests of the Church, since it must have been almost impracticable, when the facilities for travelling were few, and the stipends of the ministerial members were exceedingly limited, to assemble them from several different provinces, as frequently as the interests of the Church might require.

The records of these subordinate judicatories, after the organization of the first Synod, although highly important and interesting in themselves, do not form any part of this work.* The affairs of the Church were successfully and happily managed, under the control of the Synod of Philadelphia, until the rise of those differences, which in the year 1741 resulted in an extensive and unhappy schism. The cause of these dissensions was not diversity of sentiment on any of the cardinal doctrines of the gospel, for both parties alike adhered, in good faith, to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms; but a difference of opinion on measures, which, while one party regarded them as material to the progress of true religion, the other condemned as dangerous innovations. The history of the schism may be traced in the records which follow. These consist of the records of the Synod of Philadelphia from the year 1717 to 1758, including the period of the schism, and extending to the year in which it was healed by a re-union of the parties; and also of the Synod of New York, which grew out of the schism, from the year 1745 to 1758. In the year 1758, the Synods of Philadelphia and New York were united, and constituted the supreme judicatory of the Presbyterian Church, from that period, until the year 1789, when the General Assembly was organized.

* If the respective Presbyteries should undertake their publication, they would form a valuable contribution to our ecclesiastical history.

PART SECOND.

THE MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1717 TO 1758.

1717.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia, which began,

September 17*th*, 1717. *Post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. George McNish, moderator, Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, George Gillespie, Robert Wotherspoon, Malachi Jones, David Evans, Samuel Pumry, John Bradner, Robert Orr, John Thomson, John Pierson, Jonathan Dickinson.—13.

Elders: John Snowden, Alexander White, Elias Naudain, Peter Watkins, Daniel Howell, John Rodes.—6.

For moderator of this Synod was chosen Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, and Mr. Robert Wotherspoon was chosen clerk.

There not being time for the reading of the last year's minutes this *sederunt*, adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, at eight o'clock, sederunt ut supra, post preces.

Mr. Bradner's excuse for his absence last year was sustained.

The list of the ministers belonging to the Synod being read, it was found that Mr. Henry and Mr. Powell are dead.

The minutes concerning Mr. Morgan being read, the whole affair relating to that minute was referred to that Presbytery whereof he is a member.

The reasons of Mr. Conn's absence were by letter given, and sustained.

Masters Gillespie, Wotherspoon, and Evans, supplied Kent county according to appointment, as also did Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Thomson was ordained, according to appointment; Masters Gillespie and Bradner absent at that time; and their excuses on that occasion were accepted.

Mr. Pierson was ordained, according to appointment, at Woodbridge, on the 29th of April, 1717.

The brethren belonging to Long Island have done their endeavour for erecting a Presbytery there, and were successful.

Some Presbyteries being defective in not bringing their Presbytery books, it was ordered that they should have them ready against the next meeting of the Synod.

The consideration of the minute made last year with respect to Mr. Pumry, referred to next *sederunt*.

The moderator of the last Synod being hindered from being here at the time appointed by the last year's Synod, he was appointed to preach this day at ten o'clock, his Synodical sermon.

Mr. Gelston was ordained at Southampton, April the 17th, 1717, by Masters McNish, Philips, and Pumry, according to appointment.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

At three o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

Mr. McNish, the moderator of the last Synod, preached according to appointment, on John xxi. 17.

Mr. Pumry's business further delayed.

Sustained Mr. Hampton's absence, upon the account of a necessity he lies under to go to his native country for the recovery of his health.

Mr. John Thomson appointed to join with the Presbytery of New Castle, till such time as there is a competent number to make up a Presbytery in his neighbourhood.

Mr. Gelston's letter, containing some frivolous excuses for his absence, was not sustained.

A committee for overtures, consisting of Masters McNish, Andrews, Jones, Thomson, and Pierson, was appointed.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, September 19th, sederunt ut supra.

It being overtured to the Synod by the committee appointed for overtures, That it is to be proposed to the several members of the Synod, to contribute something to the raising a fund for pious uses, and that they do use their interest with their friends, on proper occasions, to contribute something to the same purpose, and that there be chosen a treasurer to keep what shall be collected, and that what is or may be gathered, be disposed of according to the discretion of the Synod; the overture was agreed upon and pursued, and Mr. Andrews is to be treasurer for this purpose till the next Synod.

As to the affair of Mr. Pumry, a letter from his people being presented to the Synod by one of their number, representing their desire of Mr. Pumry's continuance among them as their pastor, the Synod did appoint the moderator, and Mr. Dickinson, to write to the said people, and show the letter to the Synod the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, afternoon.

At 3 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

The Moderator and Mr. Dickinson brought in the letter for the people of Newtown according to appointment, and it was accepted.

Mr. Robert Cross, probationer, lately come from Ireland, having presented his testimonials, after reading thereof, the Synod did approve of the same, and recommended him to the Presbytery of New Castle for further direction.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow.

20th day at 8 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

This day a call from the Presbyterian Congregation of New York being given in to the members of the Presbytery of New Castle, in order to be presented to Mr. James Anderson; after they had considered of the same, together with Mr. Anderson's reasons for removal, did refer the whole affair to the Synod.

The Synod taking into consideration the abovesaid business, ordered, that a committee of their number be appointed to receive and audit the reasons of the people of New Castle, if they have any to offer, against the removal of Mr. Anderson to New York or any other place; and that the said committee do fully determine in that affair. Which committee is to consist of Messrs. McNish, Gillespie, Wotherspoon, Evans, Pumry, and Thomson, and to meet on Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock in the morning at New Castle, and that there be a letter writ to the people of New Castle by Masters Jones, Pumry, and Bradner, and to bring it against the next *sederunt.*

Mr. Pierson having asked liberty of the Synod to go home, it was granted him.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, afternoon.

At 3 o'clock post merid. post preces sederunt ut supra.

The letter that was appointed to be writ to the people of New Castle, was read and approven.

The affair of Andrew Van Dyke, that was referred from the Presbytery of New Castle to the Synod, came under consideration, and a considerable time being spent in discoursing upon it, it was determined *nemine contradicente*, that his marriage with his brother's wife or widow was incestuous and unlawful, and their living together as the consequence of that marriage, is incestuous and unlawful; and that so long as they live together, they be debarred from all sealing ordinances, and that Mr. Wotherspoon make intimation hereof to his congregation in what time and manner he shall think convenient.

Appointed that the next Synod meet at Philadelphia, on the third Tuesday of September, 1718.

Memorandum, That this day, viz: the twenty-third of this instant, September, 1718, according to appointment of Synod, was weighed and delivered into the hands of Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, treasurer for the time being, the just sum of eighteen pounds one shilling and six pence, for which he obliges himself, his heirs, Executors, and Administrators, to be accountable to the Synod, unavoidable emergencies only excepted, as witness his hand and seal, the day and year above mentioned.

JEDIDIAH ANDREWS, [L. S.]

Test. JOHN HAMPTON.

These are to testify, that there was an error in the summing up the money above mentioned in the memorandum, by exceeding the sum expressed, one pound, five shilling, and eight pence.

GEORGE MCNISH.

1718.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia, which began,

September the 16*th*, 1718.

Ministers present: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, George McNish, John Hampton, James Anderson, Daniel McGill, George Gillespie, Malachi Jones, David Evans, Samuel Pumry, John Bradner, Robert Orr, Hugh Conn, John Thomson, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, Henry Hook.—18.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Samuel Davis, Geo. Philips, Joseph Lamb.—3

Elders present: Messrs. John Snowden, John Gardner, William Williams, Archibald Smith, Edmund Cropper, Alexander Bell.—6.

Three being nominated by the moderator, namely, Messrs. Malachi Jones, Daniel McGill, and James Anderson, out of whom one to be chosen for moderator; Mr. Daniel McGill was chosen; and Mr. Samuel Gelston was chosen clerk.

Mr. Robert Wotherspoon died about the latter end of May, 1718.

The book of the Presbytery of Philadelphia being called for, it was presented.

The book of the Presbytery of New Castle being called for by the Synod, it was promised to produce it the next *sederunt*.

The Presbytery book of Long-Island being called for, it was delayed to the next *sederunt*.

The Synod ordered Masters Anderson and Thomson to revise the Pres-

bytery book of Philadelphia, and Masters Andrews and Jones to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

This Synod being further informed of Mr. Gelston's absence last year, do accept his reasons.

The affair concerning the fund, referred to the next *sederunt.*

The committee reported the case concerning Mr. Anderson, viz: that they transported him from New Castle to New York, having had power lodged in them by the Synod to determine that affair.

Mr. James Anderson reported to the Synod, that Mr. Wotherspoon had in due time observed the order of the Synod concerning Andrew Van Dyke's incestuous marriage with his brother's wife.

Mr. Andrews preached from 1 Cor. iii. 11, on the third Tuesday of 7br. 1718, at the opening of the Synod.

The Synod ordered that a committee of bills and overtures, should be appointed to meet before the next *sederunt* of the Synod, and that they consider what matters have been orderly proceeded on, and what are suitable to be by them transmitted to the Synod. The Synod also ordering, that in any case of difficulty coming before the committee, they shall take the advice of the Synod. The Synod also appoints the reverend brethren, Masters Andrews, Hampton, Anderson, Gillespie, and the Moderator, to be members of the said committee, and that the committee meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and the Synod at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Synod concluded with prayer and adjourned till 3 o'clock, post merid. to-morrow.

17th day at 3 o'clock, sederunt ut supra.

The Presbytery's book of New Castle was produced according to promise.

The Presbytery's book of Long-Island being called for, it was delayed.

The affair concerning the fund, referred till the next *sederunt.*

Mr. William Tennent's affair being transmitted by the committee to the Synod, was by them fully considered, being well satisfied with his credentials, and the testimony of some brethren here present, as also they were satisfied with the material reasons which he offered concerning his dissenting from the established Church in Ireland; being put to a vote of the Synod, it was carried in the affirmative to admit him as a member of the Synod. Ordered, that his reasons be inserted in the Synod book *ad futuram rei memoriam.* The Synod also ordered that the moderator should give him a serious exhortation to continue steadfast in his now holy profession, which was done.

The reasons of Mr. William Tennent for his dissenting from the established Church in Ireland, delivered by him to the Reverend Synod, held at Philadelphia, the 17th day of September, 1718.

Imprimis. Their government by Bishops, Arch-Bishops, Deacons, Arch-Deacons, Canons, Chapters, Chancellors, Vicars, wholly anti-scriptural.

2. Their discipline by Surrogates, and Chancellors in their Courts Ecclesiastic, without a foundation in the word of God.

3. Their abuse of that supposed discipline by commutation.

4. A Diocesan Bishop cannot be founded *jure divino* upon those Epistles to Timothy or Titus, nor anywhere else in the word of God, and so is a mere human invention.

5. The usurped power of the Bishops at their yearly visitations, acting all of themselves, without consent of the brethren.

6. Pluralities of benefices.

Lastly. The Churches conniving at the practice of Arminian doctrines inconsistent with the eternal purpose of God, and an encouragement of vice. Besides I could not be satisfied with their ceremonial way of worship. These, &c

have so affected my conscience, that I could no longer abide in a church where the same are practised. Signed by

WILLIAM TENNENT.

Mr. Samuel Young, minister of the gospel, presenting his credentials from the Presbytery of Armagh, met at Donaghmore, in the county of Down, in the kingdom of Ireland, to this Synod; they were cordially approved, and he admitted a member *nemine contradicente.*

The Synod adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning, and appointed the committee to meet at eight, and then concluded with prayer.

18th day at 10 *o'clock, sederunt ut supra.*

Mr. Pumry's absence was excused.

The Presbytery's book of Long-Island being called for, they produced their minutes.

Masters Pierson and Bradner appointed to revise the Presbytery's minutes of Long-Island.

Masters Jones and Bradner's absence excused.

Mr. McNish his absence excused.

Mr. Gillespie reported that he recommended to his congregation to contribute to the public fund, and that he received subscriptions for six pounds, odd money to be paid against next Synod.

The Synod having considered the business of the public fund, did recommend it to the several ministers, to use the methods that according to their discretion, should seem best to answer the pious intention of it, and to apply their utmost diligence therein.

Mr. Jedidiah Andrews continued treasurer of the fund till next Synod. And it is further ordered by the Synod, that the treasurer for the time being have a book, wherein the Synod shall have credit for the several sums he shall receive, and be charged debtor for what disbursements shall be made by the appointment of the Synod, and that some of their number whom they shall think fit to appoint, shall examine the said book yearly, and transmit the balance into the Synod book, which shall be subscribed and sealed to by the said treasurer, for which he, his heirs, executors, and administrators, shall be accountable to the Synod, excepting in case of unavoidable emergencies only; and that a copy of the treasurer's obligation, signed and sealed by him, be delivered to some person whom the Synod shall appoint.

The committee met as appointed.

The Synod adjourned till three o'clock precisely, and concluded with prayer.

At 3 *o'clock post merid. sederunt ut supra.*

The business concerning the fund referred till to-morrow morning; and that a collection be made then by those that shall be ready.

Masters Dickinson and Young appointed to write a letter to Mr. Boyse, minister in Dublin, to be communicated to the Presbytery there.

Masters Hampton, McNish, and Anderson, appointed to write a letter to the ministers of London, as also another letter to Mr. Stirling, principal of the University of Glasgow, and another letter to the Synod of Glasgow.

Masters John Clement and William Stewart, probationers, presented their credentials from Britain to the Synod, which were considered and approved. As also a call from Pocomoke, being presented by them to Mr. John Clement, and another was presented from Monokin and Wicomico, to Mr. William Stewart, both of which were approven by the Synod, and their ordination appointed to be according to the usual methods, and performed by Masters

Samuel Davis, Hampton, and Thomson, and such of the Presbytery of New Castle as they shall think fit to call to their assistance, when those people and they are agreed about their settlement in the above said places.

The Rev. Mr. John Hampton, having petitioned this Synod for a dismission from his pastoral relation to the people of Snowhill, they considering that the said Mr. Hampton was not able to perform the office of a pastor to that people without apparent hazard of his life through bodily indisposition; the Synod, upon mature deliberation, having put the matter to vote, it was carried *nemine contradicente*, to accept of his demission, and to declare his congregation vacant, to the great regret of the Synod.

The Synod adjourned till 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning, and concluded with prayer.

19th day at 10 o'clock, post preces sederunt ut supra.

The letter writ by Masters Young and Dickinson was produced, read, and approved.*

A collection was made for the fund by the Synod, according to appointment. Mr. Dickinson delivered one pound twelve shillings from his congregation of Elizabeth-town, for the fund.

Overtured, whether a sum out of the fund, not exceeding three pounds, be referred to three persons nominated by the Synod, to be disposed of according to their discretion, suitable to the design of the fund, and that this shall be no precedent for the future.

The said overture concerning the fund being voted, was carried in the affirmative; and Masters Jones, Andrews, and McNish, were appointed by the Synod for that particular.

Synod adjourned till 4 o'clock, *post merid.*

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* A Letter from the Synod to the Rev. John Boyse, minister in Dublin, to be communicated to the Presbytery there.

Philadelphia, September 17th, 1718.

Reverend Brethren:—It may be presumed that you are not wholly strangers to the circumstances of these parts; how many poor souls are scattered to and fro in this wilderness, under awful danger of perishing for lack of vision. And it must needs be a matter of great satisfaction to you, to be informed of the earnest breathings of many small and poor places among us, after the most precious privileges of gospel ordinances, and of the late addresses of sundry of them to us for supply.

But, sirs, the paucity and poverty of these people render them utterly incapable to support the ministry among them, could they obtain it; and there lies, therefore, upon them a deplorable necessity of still continuing in the same circumstances of darkness that they are now in, which may render both themselves and posterity miserable Pagans, unless some methods can be found out for their speedy assistance in the maintaining of such ministers as we would direct them to, which is what we are at present altogether unable to compass. And yet in faithfulness to our great Lord, and the souls of these poor people, we dare not but use our utmost essays, to strengthen their hands in this day of small things, lest this spark, which is but newly kindled, may be utterly extinguished, which gives occasion for this address unto you for your charitable assistance in so momentous an affair.

We have heard of the liberality of many gentlemen and others of our persuasion with you, on such like occasions, and dare not, therefore, doubt of their cheerful compliance with this our request, when you have communicated these circumstances to them.

Thus earnestly petitioning your endeavours for the relief of these poor people, and your answer to this address, we conclude with recommending you and your religious concerns, to the guidance and blessing of our common Lord. Signed in the name and by the appointment of the Synod, &c.

Be pleased to direct yours to the Rev. Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, minister, at Philadelphia.—[*Letter Book.*]

The Synod met at four o'clock, and adjourned till eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

20th day at 8 o'clock, sederunt, &c.

The letter to the ministers of London was read and approved.

Referred the supplying the several vacancies, to the several Presbyteries to which they belong.

The Synod recommended it to Masters Young and Tennent to apply themselves to what Presbytery within the bounds of the Synod they should think convenient.

The Presbytery's book of Philadelphia, was revised and approved by the Synod.

Adjourned till 5 o'clock, *post merid.*

Met at five o'clock and adjourned to eight o'clock, 22d day.

22d day at 8 o'clock, post preces sederunt ut supra.

The Synod ordered that the Presbytery of Long-Island do revise their minutes, and transcribe them into an orderly book against the next Synod.

The Synod ordered that the Presbytery of New Castle do revise their minutes, and transcribe them into an orderly book against the next Synod.

The Synod refers the writing of the letters to Principal Sterling and the Synod of Glasgow, to the discretion of Mr. McNish, Hampton, and Anderson.

The Synod being informed, that there is a probability of Mr. McNish his

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* To the much honoured and very reverend Dissenting Ministers at London.

The representation of their unworthy brethren, met at Philadelphia, September the 16th, 1718.

1. They represent, that though it has pleased God to afflict them much, by a removal of several of their number who were useful, yet it has also pleased the same gracious God, daily, rather to increase than decrease their number, by a continual supply of more than has been taken away, which to them is some comfortable evidence, that God has some good work to do in these parts of the world.

2. That there are now in number twenty-three ordained ministers and three probationers, who all have agreed to unite their endeavours annually at Philadelphia, for spreading and propagating the gospel of Christ in these dark parts of the world, viz: in the provinces of New York, the Jerseys, Pennsylvania and the territories, Maryland and Virginia. In all which, excepting the last, some of the aforesaid ministers do reside.

3. That all these ministers and probationers, aforesaid, are already either settled, or have prospect of settlement.

4. That notwithstanding there are still many vacancies, who either cry to us for help, or their desolate condition and the seeming good disposition of some among them, give us ground to hope, that if they could be provided with able and faithful ministers, the happy effect of it would soon appear.

5. That most of these places yet to be planted with a gospel ministry, are incapable at present of sufficiently supporting ministers among them, and therefore crave help of all well-disposed Christians every where, especially, if possibly it can be, of the city of London.

6. That we ourselves have begun a small fund for this and other religious purposes among us, but alas! it is yet so small that little or nothing can be done by it.

7. That there is nothing we desire more than the honour and comfort of a yearly correspondence with you, our very reverend and dear brethren, whom we so much esteem in the Lord, if it were but to have your countenance, concurrence, and advice, in the great and common work of our Lord and his kingdom.

Lastly, These things we have presumed in great humility to lay before you, hoping they may have some good effect to the glory of God, good of his Church, your satisfaction, and our comforts and refreshments, which, that they may prove so, is the earnest prayer of, honourable and reverend sirs, yours in the Lord.—[*Letter Book.*]

going to Britain upon some important business, and considering that he may do some service to the common interest of religion in these parts of the world; that he may the better succeed in his endeavours to serve that design, the Synod thinks fit that he be enabled by the Synod, with proper recommendations from them. The Synod, therefore, for his encouraging in so good a design and undertaking, do appoint for a committee of the Synod, Masters Jones, Andrews, Anderson, Dickinson, and Pierson, with as many others as can attend to meet at Woodbridge, at such a time as the above said Mr. McNish shall appoint, he giving the said members a month's notice, giving them full power to concert all such proper methods and ways, to enable Mr. McNish to undertake and act for us and in our name, and to the general good of religion as they shall judge fitting. It is also appointed that the said committee do furnish the said Mr. McNish with proper credentials and all such instructions as they shall think fit for answering the end abovesaid.

The Synod appoints the management of the funds as directed by a preceding minute to Masters Jones, Hampton, and McNish, and to make report to the next Synod.

The Synod adjourned till the third Wednesday of September, at 10 o'clock, *ante merid.* 1719.

1719.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia, which met

September the 16*th*, 1719, being the third Wednesday of the month.

The Synod was opened by a sermon preached by Mr. Daniel McGill, on Heb. ii. 1.

Post preces the roll was called.

Ministers present: Messrs. Daniel McGill, Jedidiah Andrews, George Gillespie, David Evans, John Bradner, Robert Orr, Hugh Conn, John Thomson, Robert Cross.

Elders: Messrs. Thomas Wallice, Thomas Gordon, Andrew Wallice, James Stoddert, John Snowden, Dr. John Nicols.

Ministers absent: Messrs. George McNish, John Hampton, Malachi Jones, Samuel Pumry, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, Henry Hook, Samuel Young, William Tennent, John Clement, William Stewart, Samuel Davis, George Philips, Joseph Lamb, James Anderson.

Mr. Andrews was chosen clerk.

Two being nominated by the moderator, namely, Masters John Thomson, and George Gillespie, out of whom one to be chosen moderator, Mr. Thomson was chosen.

The minutes of the last Synod ordered to be read over.

The appointment of the Synod with respect to the ordination of Masters John Clement, and William Stewart, was complied with, they being solemnly set apart to the work of the ministry, by the Rev. Masters Samuel Davis, John Hampton, and John Thomson, at Rehoboth, in Somerset county, in Maryland, upon —— day of June, 1719.

Ordered, That an inquiry be made about the letters sent to Britain and Ireland the last year, when the Synod shall be more full.

The whole affair concerning the Presbyteries' books referred till afterwards.

The affair concerning the fund deferred till afterwards.

The business with respect to Mr. McNish his going to Britain, mentioned in the last year's minutes, was dropt.

The moderator, Masters Andrews, McGill, and Gillespie, appointed for a committee for bills and overtures.

The committee to meet to-morrow, *ante meridiem*, at eight o'clock.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow, *ante meridiem.*

17 *day at ten o'clock, post preces, sederunt, &c.*

Masters McNish, Anderson, and Gelston, gave satisfactory reasons to the Synod for their not attending before this session.

Mr. Hampton signified his inability to attend, by letter.

Mr. Jones is dangerously sick. Mr. Pierson sick, as likewise Masters Young, Clement, and Hook. Mr. Dickinson necessarily detained by his brother's sickness.

Mr. McNish and Mr. Anderson did write to the Synod of Glasgow, and to the Principal of the college there, as appointed.

The Presbytery books ordered to be brought in next *sederunt.*

The Synod ordered that a committee should be chosen to inquire and inspect into the affair of the fund, and receive what money shall be brought in now, and consider of some proper methods of disposing of it to the best advantage for answering its end.

The Synod ordered that the moderator, Masters McNish, Anderson, Stoddert, Conn, Bradner, and Andrews, be the members of the said committee.

Whereas there was a petition from the Presbyterian congregation of New York presented to the Synod, it was ordered that that petition should be deliberated upon by the above committee, and their sentiments transmitted to the Synod.

Ordered, That the above committee relating to the fund, do meet at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

At three o'clock post meridiem, post preces, sederunt ut supra.

The book of the Presbytery of Philadelphia was not produced by reason of Mr. Dickinson's absence.

Masters Orr and Cross appointed to revise the Presbytery's book of Long Island.

Masters McNish and Anderson appointed to revise the Presbytery's book of New Castle.

The papers of the Presbytery of New Castle relating to the appeal of Abraham Emmitt, and his two sons, voted to be read.

The Synod having heard all the papers with respect to Mr. Emmitt's appeal, deferred the full consideration thereof till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till seven o'clock precisely, to-morrow morning.

18 *day, post preces, sederunt ut supra, at seven o'clock.*

It was overtured to the Synod by the committee appointed to consider of the fund, that a tenth part of the neat produce of the Glasgow collection be given to the Presbyterian congregation of New York towards the support of the gospel among them, and that a letter be sent to them from the Synod relating to their circumstances; which overture was approved by the Synod, and the moderator and Mr. Cross were appointed to write said letter, which letter is to be brought into the Synod for approbation.

The business of Mr. Emmitt, and of his sons' appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle came again before us, and it was judged, *nemine contradicente*, that the appeal was groundless. And the Synod does hereby approve of the whole proceedings of the Presbytery of New Castle in reference to that whole affair. And further, if in any thing the said Presbytery have failed as to their judgment in this affair, it is in too much lenity towards the appellants.

2. That our Rev. Brother, Mr. Gillespie, is falsely and groundlessly charged by the appellants, when they allege of him an insufficiency as to ministerial abilities, and the grounds which the said appellants found their charge upon are altogether inconclusive and false.

And further, it is Ordered, that the said appellants be discharged from the participation of the sealing ordinances of Christ, until they give satisfaction to the minister and session of their now present congregation for their offensive carriage.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Post Meridiem, sederunt ut supra.

It being overtured by the committee concerning the fund, that such a number of persons as the Synod thinks fit to be nominated, shall be empowered to receive the collection of the Synod of Glasgow and Air, if it arrives safe in goods, and put them into the hands of some substantial persons, to be sold to the best advantage for money, and to account with said persons for the sale thereof, and receive the neat produce for the use of the fund; and likewise, after receipt thereof, to let the same to use upon good security, after paying to New York congregation what is allowed to them. This overture was approved of by the Synod. And the Synod appoints that if the said goods arrive at New York, that Masters McNish, Anderson, and Tennent, or any two of them; or in case the said goods arrive at Philadelphia, that then Masters Andrews, Jones, and Cross, or any two of them, have power to dispose of said goods as abovesaid. And that the two parties abovesaid, or a majority of them, concert together about the letting out the money received for said goods to interest, for which they shall be accountable to the Synod.

Being further overtured by the committee that a letter be writ, (a copy of which to be given to every minister belonging to this Synod,) recommending a yearly collection to be gathered in every particular congregation for pious uses, to be sent yearly to the Synod by their minister or elder, it was approved. And Mr. Andrews is appointed to write the said letter, and to bring it into the Synod for approbation.

Mr. McNish added to the committee for bills and overtures.

The committee for bills and overtures appointed to meet to-morrow at eight o'clock, *ante meridiem.*

Mr. Pumry's letter of excuse for his absence was read, and his excuse sustained.

Masters McNish, Anderson, and Gillespie, appointed to preach here next Sabbath day.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

19 *day. Post preces sederunt ut supra.*

There was a letter sent to the Synod from the people of Patuxent, which the committee does overture may be considered by the Presbytery of New Castle and correspondents, and it was approved.

Overtured that Mr. McGill and Mr. Orr have synodical testimonials, they having at present no particular pastoral charges, and being uncertain how and where Providence may dispose of them; it was granted them, and Mr. Andrews is appointed to write said testimonials, and to bring them in for the approbation of the Synod.

The Synod appoints the committee for bills and overtures to write a letter to the people of Snow-hill, in answer to theirs to the Synod.

The Synod having received a letter from the people of Patomoke, in Virginia, requesting the Synod's care and diligence to provide them an able gospel minister to settle among them, it was appointed that the Rev. Mr. Daniel Mc-

Gill should go and preach to that people in order to settlement upon mutual agreement, and that a letter be writ to said people by Masters Conn and Cross, and by them be brought into the Synod for approbation.

The committee for the fund appointed to meet at eight o'clock, *ante meridiem*, on Monday next.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, *ante meridiem*, on Monday next.

21 *day. According to appointment, post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The letter to be sent to the several congregations was brought in by Mr. Andrews, and approved.*

Ordered, That an authentic copy of said letter be given to every Presbytery of the Synod, signed by the moderator and clerk.

Overtured by the committee for the fund that the widow of the Rev. Mr. John Wilson is considered as a person worthy of the regard of this Synod, as to her present circumstances, and it is proposed that four pounds be now given her out of the present fund, and that a discretionary power be lodged with Mr. Andrews, if he sees necessity requires, to give her some further supply out of the said fund, between this and the next Synod, not exceeding three pounds, and it was approved.

It is appointed by the Synod, that the money that is now in bank, be entrusted to the trustees of the Glasgow collection afore mentioned, that they or three of them shall have power to let out to interest said money, and that those that let out said money shall be accountable to the next Synod.

The committee for bills and overtures, appointed to meet half an hour after 3 o'clock, in the evening.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, *post merid.*

Post merid. according to appointment, post preces sederunt ut supra.

There was brought into the fund during the sitting of this Synod, from several

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* The letter of the Synod now sitting at Philadelphia, to the several congregations within the bounds of the Synod.

September 22, 1719.

Christian Friends:—Whereas Divine Providence, which is the Disposer of the lot of all men, has planted us in these parts of the world, and in such a station wherein we are obliged, in an eminent manner, to study the everlasting welfare of the souls of men. And whereas, to our great grief and exercise, we see many smaller places of lesser ability to maintain and support the interest of Christ among them, by the ordinary means of salvation, and yet desirous thereof, languishing in darkness and blindness, and in great danger of utter ruin for lack of vision; casting in our minds how to get these miserable people relieved, could think upon no other way than by using our utmost interest and endeavour to have such a fund or stock of money raised as may be of some use to help those distressed places and people. In pursuance of which design we have addressed our friends in Britain and Ireland not altogether without success.

And forasmuch as it seems to us unreasonable and unjustifiable to apply to other places in this affair, and ourselves, who are more immediately concerned, to hold our hands, we determined to request the charity of our respective congregations in the premises, that they would yearly make a collection for the carrying on of the said noble and pious design of planting and spreading the everlasting gospel in these provinces.

As for arguments to enforce this our proposal, the thing itself is of such consequence and importance, and withal so needful, that we need not, we hope, use any other, only the consideration of a blessing entailed, in this and the other world, by God's gracious promises, on all such as do cheerfully exert themselves for the glory of God and the good of souls, together with the honourable examples that are frequently set us by the good people of our own nation both at home and abroad. So recommending you to the counsel and blessing of the Author and Rewarder of all good works, we subscribe ourselves yours in the truest bonds of Christian affections.—[*Letter Book.*]

persons, the sum of twenty-one pounds, seven shillings and ten pence; besides a bill of exchange of fourteen pounds, five shillings sterling money, from Mr. Hampton, together with sixteen pounds, fifteen shillings, Pennsylvania money, that was before in the hands of Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, the treasurer of the fund.

Adjourned till eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

22d day, according to appointment, post preces sederunt ut supra.

The letter to the Presbyterian congregation, New York, was brought in and approved.

The Presbytery book of New Castle, was revised and approved by the Synod, unto the end of *sessio septima* in page nineteen, as is to be seen in the margin of said book in the above said page nineteen.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of Long-Island get a new well ordered book against the next Synod, and that they leave marginal room for Synodical amendments.

Mr. McNish reported, that of the sum not exceeding three pounds, for the disposing of which Masters McNish, Jones, and Andrews, had a discretionary power lodged in them, there was only one pound ten shillings disposed of.

The letter to the people of Potomoke, in Virginia, was brought in and approved of.

Letters testimonial were given to Mr. Daniel McGill and Mr. Robert Orr, according to appointment, a copy of which is ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

The minutes for the Synod's this year's meeting, were read and approved.

Appointed that the meeting of the next Synod be the third Wednesday of September next, at Philadelphia.

1720.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 22, 1720. *Post preces, the roll was called.*

Ministers present: Messrs. Daniel McGill, Jedidiah Andrews, George Gillespie, George McNish, David Evans, John Bradner, Robert Cross, Malachi Jones, Joseph Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, Henry Hook, Samuel Young, William Stewart, John Clement, James Anderson, Joseph Webb, John Orme.

Elders present: Messrs. John Nicols, Caleb Ward, Benjamin Armitage, Archibald Edmundson, Alexander White, James Abraham, Thomas January, Christophel Van Sandt, Jonathan Smith, John Colwell, Isaac Piper, Daniel Smith.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Hugh Conn, John Thomson, John Hampton, Samuel Pumry, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, William Tennent, Samuel Davis, George Philips, Joseph Lamb.

Mr. Malachi Jones, chosen moderator, and Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, clerk.

According to last year's appointment, the Synod should have met yesterday, but were hindered by bad weather.

Mr. John Thomson, who was moderator last year, was absent by reason of sickness, for which cause the Synodical sermon was not preached.

Mr. John Pierson sent the reason of his absence by letter, which was sustained. Mr. Hugh Conn and Mr. William Tennent, sent the reasons of their absence by letter, which were sustained.

The minutes of last year ordered to be read.

The Moderator, Masters Andrews, McGill, Young, Anderson, and Dickinson, appointed for a committee for bills and overtures.

Mr. Hampton absent by reason of sickness.

The Presbytery books ordered to be brought in next *sederunt.*

The whole affair respecting the fund continued.

Mr. Morgan appointed to preach to-morrow, at eleven o'clock.

Masters Gillespie, Dickinson, and Stewart, appointed to preach here next Lord's day.

Mr. McGill reported to the Synod, that according to last year's appointment, he went to Potomoke, in Virginia, and after some months' continuance there, put the people into church order.

The said Congregation of Potomoke, in Virginia, have sent a letter to the Synod, manifesting their hearty approbation of Mr. McGill's whole conduct among them, and desiring his settling with them as their minister.

The affair of Potomoke deferred till afterwards.

An inquiry with respect to what the respective ministers have done about the annual collections, delayed.

Mr. John Orme presented to the Synod his testimonials relating to his ordination to and qualifications for the gospel ministry, which the Synod was satisfied with; and upon his desire, he was received a member of the Synod.

The committee for bills and overtures, appointed to meet half an hour after two o'clock, this afternoon.

Adjourned till four o'clock, *post merid.*

Half an hour after 4 *o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt ut supra.*

Masters Gillespie and Evans, appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Masters Morgan and Hook, appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

Masters Bradner and Stewart, appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Long-Island.

Ordered, That the committee for bills and overtures, do bring in an overture for the better settling our Presbyteries.

The affair respecting the fund further continued.

The affair of Potomoke further continued.

The affair of collections further delayed.

An address from the people of Gloucester and Pilesgrove, supplicating the advice and assistance of the Synod, for the settling of the gospel among them, and in particular with relation to Mr. James Morehead, that has lately preached among them, was read and considered.

And the said Mr. Morehead, offering himself to be admitted a member of the Synod, and producing his certificates, which being viewed and deliberated upon by the Synod, were unanimously voted not valid; and more especially a writing produced by him as a testimonial of his ordination. This, together with other reasons, viz: his irregular and factious carriage in his own country, (as appeared by his own confession, and the personal knowledge of several members of this Synod,) together with his scandalous and disorderly behaviour since he came into America, (as manifestly appeared,) has caused the Synod to refuse him admittance into their number, and to lay a charge upon all their members to give him no encouragement as a minister, but to advertise all as they have opportunity, and occasion to beware of him.

Ordered, That an extract of this minute, with relation to Mr. Morehead, signed by the clerk, be given to every Presbytery belonging to this Synod.

Adjourned till to-morrow, at eight o'clock.

23d day at eight o'clock, post preces sederunt ut supra.

The affair respecting the fund further continued.

Ordered, That the affair of Potomoke, be considered by the committee for bills and overtures.

The affair of collections further delayed.

The letter from Gloucester and Pilesgrove being reviewed, it was ordered that Mr. Morgan preach at Gloucester next Lord's day, and he carry with him an extract of the minutes of the Synod with relation to Mr. Morehead, and read it to that congregation.

Mr. Hook ordered to preach at Pilesgrove the next Lord's day come s'ennight, and carry with him an extract of the minutes of this Synod with relation to Mr. Morehead, and read it to the congregation.

Mr. Andrews appointed to write a letter to the people of Gloucester and Pilesgrove, in answer to theirs, and bring it in to-morrow morning.

What further concerns the people of Gloucester and Pilesgrove, referred to the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

A letter from Mr. Pumry, by way of excuse for his absence being read, was not sustained. Mr. McNish appointed to tell him so.

The committee for bills and overtures, appointed to meet at three o'clock, afternoon.

Adjourned till half an hour after three o'clock, *Post meridiem.*

Half an hour after three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the committee for bills and overtures, together with Mr. McNish and Mr. Bradner added to them, be a committee about the affair of the fund.

Ordered, That every minister of this Synod do their diligence to obtain what collection they can from their respective congregations toward the fund, as was appointed last Synod.

The affair of Mr. Clement came into consideration and is continued.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

24 *day, at* 8 *o'clock, post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The papers sent to the Synod by some elders of the church at Rehoboth, by way of complaint against Mr. Clement, their minister, were delivered to said Mr. Clement, to be perused, and answered in writing the next Monday, at ten o'clock, *ante meridiem.*

A letter from James Mitchell read, and the consideration of it delayed

The supplication of Abraham Emmitt being read, is deferred till the next *sederunt.*

An address from some people in and about Birmingham, upon Brandywine, read in the Synod, and is continued.

The letter to Gloucester and Pilesgrove read and approved.

Adjourned till Monday morning, at ten o'clock.

26 *day, ten o'clock post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The affair of Mr. Clement delayed.

The consideration of James Mitchell's letter further delayed.

The supplication of Abraham Emmitt delayed.

The address from Birmingham delayed.

The affair of New York coming under consideration, was deferred till afternoon.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M.

P. M. four o'clock, post preces, sederunt ut supra.

After a full hearing and long reasoning upon the case represented by Messrs. Livingston and Smith, touching Mr. Anderson's settling at New York; the question was put whether the proceedings of the Presbytery of Long Island, in the settling Mr. Anderson at New York, were regular? And it was carried in the affirmative by a great majority.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dickinson write a letter to Messrs. Livingston and Smith, &c.

The sentiments of the Synod concerning two sermons read before them, preached at New York by Mr. Anderson, and complained of by Messrs. Livingston and Smith, is, that they could wish that they had been delivered in softer and milder terms in some passages, though the Synod approves of the substance of the sermons as orthodox and godly.

Ordered, That the moderator, Mr. Gillespie, and Mr. Evans, write a letter to the Presbyterian congregation at New York, and bring it into the Synod.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

27 *day, ten o'clock, post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The letter to Messrs. Livingston and Smith, &c. read and approved.

Mr. Clement brought his answer in writing to the papers sent to the Synod from Rehoboth, which being considered, was further delayed.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M.

Four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt ut supra.

Overtured, That a committee be sent to Rehoboth, with full power from the Synod to act in their names, and by their authority, in the affair between Mr. Clement and that people, and that Mr. Clement be suspended from the exercise of his ministry, until the determination of that committee. This overture was carried by vote in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente.*

Ordered, That Masters McNish, McGill, Thomson, Stewart, Gillespie, and Hook, or any three of them, be a committee for said purpose, and to meet at said place the fourth Friday of October next.

Ordered, That each of the mentioned ministers carry an elder with him if he can.

Ordered, That an extract of this minute be given to said committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

28*th day. Nine o'clock. Post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The Synod having received letters from Snowhill, by way of complaint against Mr. Samuel Davis, have appointed Masters McNish, McGill, Hampton, Thomson, Stewart, Gillespie, and Hook, or any three of them, to be a committee to go to Snowhill, with full power to hear, examine, and determine about the complaints made, or to be made, against the said Mr. Davis. Which affair is to be determined by said committee, before the committee appointed in the business of Mr. Clement return home.

Upon a motion of an interloquitur of the ministers of the Synod, by Mr. McNish, Ordered, That the ministers meet, pursuant to said motion, at three o'clock, P. M.

The consideration of James Mitchell's letter further delayed.

Adjourned till six o'clock, P. M.

29*th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces, sederunt ut supra.*

The Synod being necessarily hindered from sitting at the time appointed, have deferred their meeting until now.

The interloquitur of the ministers of the Synod was held according to ap-

pointment. Another interloquitur appointed to be held at three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

The Synod being addressed by letters from Abraham Emmitt, senior, Abraham Emmitt, junior, and Josias Emmitt, petitioning their reconsideration of the case between Mr. Gillespie and them; the Synod, upon serious consideration, find reason to confirm their former sentence, any reasons now offered to the contrary by said Emmitts notwithstanding. And it is ordered by the Synod, that the said Emmitts be still discharged from the participation of sealing ordinances until they give this following satisfaction, viz. that they own their fault before the session, in uttering defamatory speeches against the ministerial abilities of Mr. George Gillespie, and shall manifest their sorrow for having done so.

There being an overture brought from the committee for bills and overtures that ten pounds out of the fund be given for the encouragement and support of such ministers as shall preach to the people of Gloucester and Pilesgrove, to be disposed of at the discretion of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, or any two of them, it was agreed to by the Synod.

Ordered, That Mr. McGill and Mr. Young write a letter to the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and another to Mr. Stirling, principal of the college of Glasgow, in answer to theirs, representing the hearty thanks of this Synod for their kindness to the interest of religion in these wilderness parts.

Ordered, That the letter two years ago by this Synod to the ministers of London, be transcribed and directed severally to Dr. Calamy, Mr. John Nesbitt, and Mr. James Anderson, with a short postscript to each.

Adjourned till four o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Four o'clock, P. M. Post preces, sederunt ut supra.

The interloquitur of the ministers of the Synod was held according to appointment, with relation to an affair respecting Mr. Robert Cross, referred to the Synod by the Presbytery of New Castle.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, eight o'clock.

30*th day. Post preces, sederunt ut supra, at eight o'clock.*

The affair of Mr. Robert Cross transmitted from the interloquitur of the Synod, came into consideration before the Synod, wherein the charges of fornication laid against him, with its aggravations, were fully heard and considered with great deliberation, and also charged upon him by the moderator, in the face of the Synod, and before several other discreet persons who were desired to be present. And the said Mr. Robert Cross did, with great seriousness, humility, and signs of true repentance, confess the charge laid against him, and in all respects did so behave himself as was universally satisfactory to the Synod, and the other persons present.

Overtured, That Mr. Cross be suspended by act of the Synod four Sabbaths, and at the expiration of said time he have liberty again to preach the gospel. And that at the desire of the congregation of New Castle, or their representatives in their name, he may be again restored to the exercise of his ministry in that place, by a committee of the Synod, and that the said committee meet at said place at least three days before the expiration of the said time.

This overture was agreed to by the Synod.

Ordered, That Mr. Jones, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Young, Mr. McGill, Mr Evans, or any three of them, be the said committee.

Ordered, That Mr. McGill preach the second, Mr. Young the third, Mr Hook the fourth Sabbath in next month, at New Castle.

Adjourned till four o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Four o'clock, P. M. Post preces, sederunt ut supra.

Mr. McGill appointed to preach at Kent county, and to the people at Birmingham, on Brandywine, or to either or both of them as he in Christian prudence shall find occasion.

The letter to the congregation at New York was read and approved.

Overtured, That a commission of the Synod be appointed to act in the name, and with the whole authority of the Synod, in all affairs that shall come before them, and particularly that the whole of the fund be left to their conduct, and that they be accountable to the Synod; which overture was approved by the Synod.

Masters Jones, Andrews, McNish, Anderson, Dickinson, and Evans, appointed for said commission, any three whereof to be a quorum.

The Presbytery books were each of them, according to appointment, revised and approved by the Synod.

The business concerning the regulation of Presbyteries, deferred till the next Synod.

The letters to Glasgow read and approved.

Mr. Gillespie entered his protest and dissent against the procedure of the Synod with respect to the affair of Robert Cross.

The Synod adjourned until the third Wednesday of September next, then to meet at Philadelphia.*

1721.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 20th, 1721. *Post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Daniel McGill, Jedidiah Andrews, George Gillespie, George McNish, Malachi Jones, David Evans, Joseph Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, James Anderson, Joseph Webb, John Orme, William Tennent, John Thomson, Samuel Gelston, Samuel Pumry, Hugh Conn, Henry Hook, Samuel Davis, John Pierson, Robert Cross, William Stewart.

Messrs. John Bradner, John Clement, George Philips, and Joseph Lamb, were absent.

Elders present: Messrs. Robert Gordon, John Snowden, Robert Finney, John David, John Gardner, Johannes Vandegrift, Robert Ogden, Thomas Odell, and Ephraim Sealy.

Mr. Jonathan Dickinson was chosen moderator, and Mr. David Evans was chosen clerk.

The Synod to their great sorrow found that our reverend brethren, Mr. Samuel Young and Mr. John Hampton were dead.

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* Mr. Archibald Edmundson.

Philadelphia, October the 6th, 1720.

Sir:—Mr. McGill having reported to me and some others that were left as a committee of the Synod, that there was some difference between his apprehensions and those of the people of Marlborough congregation, respecting about half a year's time that was spent between the time of his having accepted the call in England and his entering into actual service among you; and desiring our opinion, whether it were not right for him to expect pay for that time, because he had then laid by all business that could be advantageous to him, besides was rather more expensive to him than the same space of time was when actually settled in business; we could not but give it as our opinion, that he might justly expect to be paid for that time, and the other members left it with me to acquaint you with our sentiments of the matter. I am, sir, your humble servant. A.
—[*Letter Book.*]

[Many of the letters referred to in the Minutes are not to be found in the Letter Book, and the foregoing is the last memorandum recorded.]

Mr. Jones, moderator of the last Synod, preached a Synodical sermon from 1 Cor. iv. 2.

Appointed that the committee for bills and overtures be Masters Jedidiah Andrews, George McNish, and Daniel McGill.

The minutes of the last Synod ordered to be read.

New complaints being made by some of the members concerning James Morehead, who was disowned by the Synod last year, which affair is deferred till afterwards.

Mr. Samuel Pumry gave satisfactory reasons to the Synod for his absence last year.

Ordered, That the members of the Synod be inquired of to-morrow morning, what collection they have made towards the fund.

Ordered, That Mr. Hugh Conn shall preach here next Friday, at eleven o'clock.

Ordered, That the committee for bills and overtures do meet to-morrow morning, at seven o'clock.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

21st day. Post preces sederunt qui supra, at nine o'clock.

The affair of the committee with relation to Mr. Clement, deferred.

Mr. Gillespie reported that the Emmitts gave satisfaction to him and his session, according to the order of the Synod last year.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia reported that they had paid Mr. Clement five pounds of the ten pounds that was left to them last year to be disposed of at their discretion, for the encouragement of the gospel at Gloucester and Pilesgrove.

The committee appointed to meet upon the account of Mr. Cross, met according to appointment, and the representatives of the congregation of New Castle, reporting that the generality of said congregation were for continuing Mr. Cross as their pastor; the said committee restored him unto the exercise of his pastoral office there.

Mr. McGill performed the order of the Synod last year to their satisfaction.

Ordered, That the commissioners of the Synod, do bring in an account to-morrow morning of what they have done in the Synod's name, since last meeting.

Appointed that the committee for bills and overtures be also a committee for the fund; and Messrs. Jones, Anderson, Thomson, and the moderator, be added to them.

Appointed that Mr. Pierson and Mr. Webb, do revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

Appointed that Mr. Conn and Mr. Cross, do revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Appointed that Mr. Orme and Mr. Gillespie, do revise the Presbytery book of Long-Island.

The business with respect to the regulation of Presbyteries deferred from last to this Synod, further delayed.

The affair relating to James Morehead, further delayed.

It being inquired what collections for the fund were made, it was found that Masters Andrews, McNish, the Moderator, Webb, Orme, Conn, Thomson, and Gelston, have brought collections from their respective congregations, which they are ordered to deliver to the committee for the fund, and the remaining ministers having given their reasons why they obtained no collections, they were sustained.

Ordered, That the ministers of this Synod shall continue their diligence to obtain collections for the fund as afore appointed.

The committee for bills and overtures, appointed to meet at half an hour after two o'clock, *post merid.*

Adjourned till half an hour after three o'clock, P. M.

P. M. half an hour after three o'clock.

The whole affair relating to Mr. Clement deferred.

The consideration of the regulation of Presbyteries further delayed.

The affair relating to Mr. Morehead, further delayed.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post merid.* to-morrow.

22d day at three o'clock, post merid. sederunt qui supra.

The affair relating to Mr. Clement further delayed.

The consideration of the regulation of Presbyteries further delayed.

The affair of James Morehead was reassumed, and he presenting himself before the Synod, it was by the moderator inquired of him, whether he would submit to the Synod or not, which he refusing, the moderator, in the name of the Synod, solemnly admonished him not to exercise the work of the ministry, upon pain of the highest church censure in case of continued contumacy.

Ordered, That a letter be written to the people of White-clay creek, in answer to their letter to the Synod, and that Masters John Orme and Robert Cross do write said letter.

Ordered, That Mr. John Thomson preach at White-clay creek, and read the above said letter to said people, together with all the conclusions of the Synod relating to the above said Morehead.

Ordered, That Masters Orme, Cross, and McGill, do preach here next Lord's day.

The committee for bills and overtures, to meet at eight o'clock, *ante merid.* to-morrow.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, A. M. to-morrow.

23d day at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. Clement was reassumed, and with reference thereunto it was proposed, whether it should be presently taken into consideration of the Synod, which was carried affirmatively. Whereupon the Synod having diligently inquired into the conversation of the said Mr. Clement, from the time of the committee appointed to sit at Rehoboth last fall, do find incontestable proof from several evidences who appeared before the Synod, that in the general, the carriage of the said Mr. Clement, had been unbecoming a gospel minister. And more particularly it was proved before us, that he had been grossly disingenuous in the pretended satisfaction he had given to the said committee, by his saying, that the confession of his immoralities, and the satisfaction he had made to them, was because he knew no other way to get out of their clutches. It also appeared by good evidence, that the said Mr. Clement, had been diverse times overtaken with drink, and chargeable with very abusive language, and quarrelling, and of stabbing a man. Whereupon the Synod seriously considering the premises, do, in regard to the honour of God and edification of his people, as well as for preventing the bad influence of his ill example, as also his own conviction and reformation, suspend the said Mr. Clement from the exercise of all and every part of his ministerial function, till the next meeting of the Synod at this place.

Ordered, That Mr. Jedidiah Andrews do write a letter to said Mr. Clement at his leisure, in which an extract of this minute is to be inclosed.

The committee for bills and overtures to meet at eight o'clock on Monday next, A. M.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, Monday next, A. M.

September, 25th day at ten o'clock, according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Samuel Davis gave the reasons of his several years' absence, which reasons were sustained.

The consideration of the regulation of Presbyteries further delayed.

The letter to the people of Whiteclay creek was brought in, read, and approved.

Adjourned till three o'clock, precisely, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt, &c.

The consideration of the regulation of Presbyteries deferred *ut supra.*

Mr. Gillespie proposing to the Synod a review of their last year's minutes with relation to Mr. Robert Cross, in order that they might be altered or annulled, it was voted the said minutes should not be annulled or altered.

The question being put whether answers in writing should be made by the Synod to Mr. Gillespie's protestations and objections against the procedure of the Synod with relation to Mr. Robert Cross his affair, and it was carried in the negative.

Mr. Pierson appointed to preach here to-morrow night.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow, A. M.

26th day, at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The overture brought in upon Mr. Gillespie's second paper deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock precisely, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt, &c.

The overture brought in upon Mr. Gillespie's second paper, further delayed.

A reference from the Presbytery of Long-Island being made to this Synod, as to a further cognoscing on the affair of the trustees of New Haven college, their sending missionaries to erect a new separate congregation in New York; and we having inspected into the conduct of the said Presbytery in that affair, though we cannot see how their conduct can be disapproved; yet considering that the gentlemen trustees have, by a letter, desired a conference with some of our Synod upon that and other affairs, we now defer giving our Synodical judgment thereon, that so we may not hinder their desired amicable conference with us, in case any such conference be appointed.

A letter from the trustees of the college of New Haven being read, wherein they have desired that this Synod would send some of their number to meet and amicably treat with them about the great affairs of religion in general, and about the unhappy difference at New York in particular; the Synod in answer to those great and good ends, do appoint the Presbytery of Long-Island, or as many of their number as the said Presbytery shall nominate and appoint to meet, and christianly confer with the said trustees upon the foresaid articles, at Stanford, on the 25th day of October next, and that a letter be written in answer to theirs.

Ordered, That Masters Andrews, McGill, and Thomson, do write said letter, and bring it in to-morrow afternoon.

The committee for bills and overtures to meet at eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow morning.

27th day. At ten o'clock. Post preces sederunt, &c.

The overture brought in upon Mr. Gillespie's second paper further delayed.

Ordered, That each minister of this Synod do pay a shilling to the doorkeeper.

An overture being brought in from the committee of bills and overtures, that Mrs. Wilson should have of the fund four pounds ten shillings, Mr. Evans two pounds ten shillings, the said overture was approved by the Synod.

The people of Birmingham addressing the Synod for a supply of preaching the gospel unto them, that matter was referred to the Presbytery of New Castle.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces, sederunt qui supra.

Whereas in page thirty-three of the Presbytery (now Synod,) book, there is a minute relating to Mr. Pierson's settlement at Woodbridge, the Synod at his instance, do declare their approbation of his conduct in settling there.

The overture upon Mr. Gillespie's second paper was reassumed, which was as followeth, viz.

As we have been for many years in the exercise of Presbyterian government and Church discipline, as exercised by the Presbyterians in the best reformed Churches, as far as the nature and constitution of this country will allow, our opinion is, that if any brother have any overture to offer to be formed into an act by the Synod, for the better carrying on in the matter of our government and discipline, that he may bring it in against next Synod.

This overture was carried in the affirmative by a majority of votes, and ordered by vote to be recorded.

Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, Mr. Malachi Jones, Mr. Joseph Morgan, Mr. John Pierson, Mr. David Evans, and Mr. Joseph Webb, entered their protestation against the above mentioned act, and the recording of it, and gave in the reasons of their protest, which are *in retentis.*

Ordered, That Mr. McGill and Mr. McNish draw up answers to the above-said protest.

The Presbytery books were each of them, according to appointment, read and approved by the Synod.

The letter to the trustees of New Haven college was read and approved.

Ordered, that Mr. Jedidiah Andrews do sign said letter in the name of the Synod.

The affair of the regulation of Presbyteries, and the letters from Southampton and New York, deferred till next Synod.

Overtured, That a commission of the Synod be appointed to act in the name, and with the whole authority of the Synod, in all affairs which shall come before them, and particularly that the whole affair of the fund be left to their conduct, and that they be accountable to the Synod.

Which overture was approved by the Synod, and Masters George McNish, Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, Samuel Pumry, Malachi Jones, and Robert Cross, were appointed for said commissioners, any three of them to be a quorum.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday in September next, and then to meet at Philadelphia, at two o'clock, *post meridiem.*

1722.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 20th, 1722.

(The paucity of the members present was the reason why they did not constitute yesterday, according to appointment.)

Post preces sederunt

Ministers: Messrs. John Orme, John Thomson, Samuel Gelston, Samuel Pumry, Hugh Conn, Henry Hook, Robert Cross, William Stewart, John Bradner, Moses Dickinson, Daniel McGill, Jedidiah Andrews, George Gillespie, George McNish, Malachi Jones, David Evans, Joseph Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, James Anderson.

Messrs. Joseph Webb, William Tennent, Samuel Davis, John Pierson, John Clement, George Philips, Joseph Lamb, ministers, were absent.

Elders present were: Messrs. John Budd, John Gardner, Joseph Charlesworth, James Parry, Joseph Woodroof, Edward Holmes, David Miller, Richard Wallis, and Enoch Armitage.

Mr. John Thomson was chosen moderator, and Mr. David Evans was chosen clerk.

The minutes of the last Synod ordered to be read.

Mr. John Bradner gave his reasons for his absence last year, which were sustained.

Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, the moderator of the last Synod, preached a synodical sermon, from 2 Tim. iii. 17.

Masters Jedidiah Andrews, Jonathan Dickinson, George McNish, Robert Cross, with the moderator, are appointed for a committee for bills and overtures; and it is recommended to all the rest of the members of the Synod to attend upon said committee as they can and see cause.

And it's agreed by the Synod, that if any matter of difficulty happen to be referred from any of our respective Presbyteries to the Synod, they may as they think meet, either bring it immediately to the Synod or to the aforesaid committee.

Mr. Alexander Hutchinson, probationer, producing sufficient credentials from the Presbytery of Glasgow was approved.

Appointed, That Mr. Samuel Pumry preach here to-morrow, at eleven o'clock in the morning. And Mr. McNish, and Mr. Alexander Hutchinson, to preach here next Sabbath day; and Mr. Robert Cross on the next Sabbath night; and Mr. James Anderson on the next Monday night.

Appointed, That the committee for bills and overtures be also a committee for the fund, and that Mr. Hugh Conn, and Mr. James Anderson, be added to them.

Appointed, That the committee for overtures do meet to-morrow, at eight o'clock, *ante meridiem.*

A letter from Mr. Joseph Webb, containing the reasons of his absence from the Synod, was produced by Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, and the reasons were sustained.

One Mr. Robert Laing, a minister of the gospel from Great Britain, being arrived in Maryland, and as he was coming to this Synod was taken sick by the way, whose credentials from Great Britain were produced at this Synod and approved, and he recommended to the Presbytery of New Castle for further direction.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Appointed, That Mr. Joseph Morgan, and Mr. Samuel Pumry, do revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

Appointed, That Mr. Malachi Jones, and Mr. Hugh Conn, do revise the Presbytery book of Long Island.

Appointed, That Mr. George Gillespie, and Mr. Samuel Gelston, do revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

It being inquired what collections for the fund were made, it was found

that Mr. George McNish, Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, and Mr. William Stewart, have brought collections from their respective congregations, which they are ordered to deliver to the committee for the fund, and the rest of the ministers having given their reasons why they brought no collections, their reasons were sustained.

The affair concerning the regulation of Presbyteries coming under consideration, it was ordered, that Mr. William Stewart do join to the Presbytery of New Castle.

Mr. John Thomson preached at Whiteclay Creek, &c. according to appointment.

Mr. Andrews writ the letter, and also an extract of the last Synod's minute relating to Mr. Clement, to him, which were delivered to him by Mr. Thomson, and the said Mr. Clement not appearing at this Synod, his suspension is continued till he gives satisfaction to the Synod. And it is by the Synod recommended to all our Presbyteries, that if they, or any of them, before the next Synod, do hear that the said Mr. Clement does any where officiate as a minister, they shall write to the people he officiates among, to inform them of the said Mr. Clement's lying under the censure of the Synod.

The Presbytery of Long Island report that they fulfilled the appointment of the Synod with respect to the conference with the trustees of New Haven college, the particular account of which conference is delayed till to-morrow.

Ordered, That every minister of this Synod give a shilling to the doorkeeper.

Mr. McNish hath fulfilled the appointment of the last year's Synod in answering the protest of Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, Mr. Malachi Jones, &c.; a further inquiry into which affair is delayed.

Ordered, That the commission of the Synod do bring in an account of all their proceedings since the last Synod, to-morrow.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem*, to-morrow.

21 *day. At* 3 *o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair relating to the conference with the trustees of New Haven College deferred till to-morrow.

The affair relating to Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Morgan, &c. their protest deferred till afterwards.

The affair relating to the account from the commission of the Synod deferred till afterwards.

The affair relating to Mr. John Walton, transmitted from the committee, now comes under consideration, a representation whereof is contained in his supplication, which we have *in retentis.*

Ordered, That the said supplication of Mr. Walton be read; Masters Jonathan Dickinson, Moses Dickinson, Malachi Jones, Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, and John Budd, with Mr. Walton, being first removed, while the whole management of this affair shall last.

The Synod having, with much seriousness and deliberation, considered the whole affair, and all the particular branches of it, came to the following conclusion:

That however they judge the Presbytery of Maidenhead's proceeding to suspend Mr. Walton, being absent, unheard, the evidences not being confronted, especially their proceeding to publish the said suspension, with the reason thereof, at Croswicks, before the matter was judicially cleared, was not regular; yet the charge with which Mr. Walton is charged being afterwards sufficiently proved, was just ground of suspension if the Presbytery had been more deliberate, and the matter of charge against him formally made appear before the inflicting the censure, as it was afterwards. And further,

the Synod judgeth that Mr. Walton's behaviour towards, and treatment of the said Presbytery in many of his expressions, particularly those contained in his address to the Synod, wherein he designs them in general and particular, with diminutive and deriding titles, and speaks of them and their proceeding with an air of disdain, was very abusive and insolent, and every way unsuitable and unbecoming for any private Christian, and much more a candidate for the ministry to use towards ministers of the gospel, whose universal character hitherto hath been without blemish.

Adjourned till eight o'clock precisely to-morrow, A. M.

22d day at 8 o'clock, according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair relating to the conference with the trustees of New Haven College; also the affair relating to Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Jones, &c. their protest; also the affair relating to the commission of the Synod, deferred till afterwards.

A further consideration of Mr. Walton's business delayed till next Monday.

A reference by the Presbytery of New Castle, held at Cohanzy *pro re nata*, being made to this Synod, comes now under our consideration; and after a long and patient hearing of both parties, and considerable deliberation being had upon the same, it was universally agreed, that a committee be chosen to consider further upon the particulars of that affair, and to bring in overtures upon every particular of it against next Monday morning. The members of the said committee to be Masters George McNish, Jonathan Dickinson, Moses Dickinson, Jedidiah Andrews, John Budd, Samuel Gelston, Samuel Pumry, James Anderson, together with all the members of the Presbytery at Cohanzy, *pro re nata*, together with Mr. McGill; which committee is to meet at four o'clock, this afternoon.

Adjourned till eight o'clock, on Monday morning.

At 8 o'clock on Monday, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair relating to the conference with the trustees of New Haven College; also the affair relating to Mr. Dickinson, &c. and the protest; and also the affair relating to the commission of the Synod, deferred till afterwards.

The committee on the affair of Mr. Hook, not having finished what was committed to them, the said business is deferred till afterwards.

The business of Mr. Walton reassumed.

Mr. Walton being called in, and largely discoursed with again respecting his case, he not being satisfactory in his expressions, the Synod appointed two of their number, *silicet* the moderator and Mr. McNish, to confer with him privately, and make report to the Synod.

The brethren appointed to confer with Mr. Walton, report, that his carriage with them was much as before the Synod. Whereupon the Synod concluded to allow him till four o'clock this afternoon to consider further of his affair, and that then he deliver his mind to the Synod in writing as fully as he thinks fit.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At 3 o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affairs deferred the last *sederunt*, further deferred.

The affair of Mr. Walton reassumed.

The said Mr. Walton gave in an additional acknowledgment of his misdemeanours in writing, which being read, the question was put, whether it was satisfactory *pro tanto*, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Synod after long and free debate upon the whole of Mr. Walton's affair, do order and appoint as followeth; that the said Mr. Walton is suspended from preaching in any place for three Sabbaths next ensuing, and that his acknowledgment and confession given in this day to the Synod, so far only as it concerns his miscarriages committed at Newark, shall in his own words be read publicly in open congregation on the last of the three Sabbaths; where it is ordered that Mr. Walton shall be present and own the said acknowledgment and confession given in to us before the congregation then and there assembled; which done, the minister appointed to preach that day, shall authoritatively take off the suspension. Mr. Pumry is appointed to preach at Newark the said Sabbath. Mr. George Gillespie, Mr. David Evans, Mr. John Orme, and Mr. John Gardner, dissented against the limited suspension of Mr. John Walton.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

At eight o'clock, A. M. according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affairs deferred the last *sederunt*, further deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post merid.* that the committee might have time to complete the overtures upon the affair of Cohanzy.

At 3 o'clock, P. M. according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. Hook reassumed.

The committee appointed to bring in overtures upon the several articles alleged against Mr. Hook, brought in their overtures, which are as follows.

1. Overtured, That inasmuch as the first crimination against Mr. Hook is of several years date; and by the confession of the parties offended, long since satisfied for, and as appears to us from an ill motive, that it be therefore rejected, which overture was approved of by the Synod.

2. Overtured, That the Synod disapprove of Mr. Fithian's publicly charging Mr. Hook with a lie relating to a bargain of a horse, not only without evidence, but when the evidences he produced witnessed against him; which overture was approved of by the Synod.

3. Overtured, That Mr. Hook is chargeable with falsehood, and a very unnatural and uncharitable construction of Mr. Sealy's letter, in representing him as saying, that Mr. Hook's fingers and toes were cut off in Ireland for stealing. Which overture, by a majority of votes, was approved by the Synod.

4. Overtured, That Mr. Hook cannot be charged with a lie respecting the shooting match, inasmuch as he might truly say, he did not inform the justices, but only admonished them of their duty. Approved by a majority of votes of the Synod.

5. Overtured, That Mr. Hook was chargeable with folly and levity unbecoming a gospel minister in the sham marriages alleged. Approved by the Synod.

6. Overtured, That Mr. Hook might have been asleep, notwithstanding of what appears by Joseph Brooks and Benjamin Davis their evidences; therefore, after long and mature deliberation upon it, we left it doubtful. Which was approved by the Synod.

7. As to the charge of obscene actions expressed in Ephraim Sealy's deposition, Mr. Hook hath confessed the whole with much seeming sorrow, and grief before the Synod. Upon the whole, Mr. Hook being called in and by the moderator desired to declare his thoughts concerning the other articles of which he was concluded guilty by the Synod, he made an acknowledgment as to every particular, and professed a sincere sorrow and repentance for the

same. Which together with the acknowledgment by him before made, with relation to the article contained in Ephraim Sealy's evidence, was accepted by the Synod as a satisfactory evidence of his sincere repentance. Upon which the Synod spent a considerable time in debating and deliberating upon the kind and degree of censure to be inflicted upon Mr. Hook for the abovesaid offences. At last the question was proposed, suspend or not. The resolution of which is deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow, *ante merid.*

At nine o'clock, A. M. according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affairs deferred the last *sederunt* deferred further.

The above mentioned question relating to the suspension or non-suspension of Mr. Hook, being proposed, it was, by a great majority of votes carried in the affirmative. It being again questioned, whether his suspension should be limited or indefinite, it was by a majority of votes carried indefinite.

Upon the whole, the Synod have appointed, that Mr. Daniel McGill, Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, Mr. James Morgan, and Mr. Robert Cross, do meet at Fairfield meeting-house upon the third Thursday of October next ensuing, and then and there they or any one of them, have power to take off the suspension, if no sufficient reason to the contrary appears. And further, it is ordered that one of the said ministers do preach at the said meeting-house, and also, that the said ministers do publicly read a full extract of the Synod's minutes relating to Mr. Hook, and that Mr. Hook make his public acknowledgment *viva voce* or in writing, as he thinks fit, in order to his being absolved as aforesaid.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. according to appoinment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Long-Island gave in their report to the Synod, that a committee of their Presbytery met a number of the trustees of New-Haven college, according to the appointment of the Synod, and have given a large account in writing, of their proceedings with said trustees, whereby the Synod is convinced that they, though without the desired success, have done what they could relating to the union with Connecticut ministers, and removing those differences between them and our Presbytery of Long-Island, by the irregular division of the congregation at New York, and the trustees sending missionaries to preach there. Upon the whole, the Synod approves of the conduct of the Presbytery of Long-Island in the whole affair as it was managed by them, both since last Synod and formerly.

Mr. Hook desiring to be joined to New Castle Presbytery, it was granted.

Ordered, That Mr. John Pierson do supply Mr. Pumry's congregation that Sabbath in which Mr. Pumry is to be at Newark about Mr. Walton's business; and that on the same day Mr. Webb supply Mr. Pierson's people.

The affair of Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, &c. his protest reassumed.

Adjourned till eight o'clock, to-morrow, *ante merid.*

At eight o'clock, A. M. according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The brethren who entered their protestation against the act for allowing any brother or member of this Synod, to bring in any overture to be formed into an act by the Synod, for the better carrying on in the matters of our government and discipline, &c. The said brethren protestants brought in a paper of four articles, testifying in writing their sentiments and judgment concerning

church government, which was approved by the Synod, and ordered by the Synod to be recorded in the Synod book. Likewise the said brethren being willing to take back their protestation against said act, together with their reasons given in defense of said protest; the Synod doth hereby order that the protest, together with the reasons of it, as also the answers at the appointment of the Synod given in to the reasons alleged by Mr. Daniel McGill and Mr. George McNish, be all withdrawn; and that the said act remain and be in all respects as if no such protest had been made. The articles are as followeth.

1. We freely grant, that there is full executive power of church government in Presbyteries and Synods, and that they may authoritatively, in the name of Christ, use the keys of church discipline to all proper intents and purposes, and that the keys of the church are committed to the church officers and them only.

2. We also grant, that the mere circumstantials of church discipline, such as the time, place, and mode, of carrying on in the government of the Church, belong to ecclesiastical judicatories to determine as occasions occur, conformable to the general rules in the word of God, that require all things to be done decently and in order. And if these things are called *acts*, we will take no offence at the word, provided that these acts be not imposed upon such as conscientiously dissent from them.

3. We also grant, that Synods may compose directories, and recommend them to all their members, respecting all the parts of discipline, provided that all subordinate judicatories may decline from such directories when they conscientiously think they have just reason so to do.

4. We freely allow that appeals may be made from all inferior to superior judicatories, and that superior judicatories have authority to consider and determine such appeals.

MALACHI JONES,
JOSEPH MORGAN,
JONATHAN DICKINSON,
DAVID EVANS.

The Synod was so universally pleased with the abovesaid composure of their difference, that they unanimously joined together in a thanksgiving prayer, and joyful singing the one hundred and thirty-third psalm.

The supplications of the people of New Castle, and the people of Tree Dyffryn, referred from the committee for bills and overtures to the Synod, referred to the commission of the Synod.

A representation being made by some of our members of the earnest desires of some Protestant dissenting families in Virginia, together with a comfortable prospect of the increase of our interest there, the Synod have appointed that Mr. Hugh Conn, Mr. John Orme, and Mr. William Stewart, do each of them severally visit said people, and preach four Sabbaths to them, between this and the next Synod.

Some members expressing their fears lest Mr. John Walton should not behave himself orderly, the Synod do appoint that Mr. George McNish, Mr. James Anderson, and Mr. Samuel Pumry, or any two of them, do, in the Synod's name, judicially deal with him, upon information, as they shall see proper.

The Presbytery books of Philadelphia and Long Island were brought in, and approved by the Synod.

The commission of the Synod appointed last year, continued with the same powers until the next Synod.

The review of the minutes of this present Synod, and all the affairs of the fund, with whatever emergencies may occur, referred to the said commission.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, and then to meet at Philadelphia, at two o'clock, afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

1723.

Philadelphia, September the 18*th*, 1723.

The Synod met according to appointment, *ubi post preces sederunt*, (Mr. Jones being moderator, *pro tempore*, and Mr. Cross clerk.)

Ministers present: Messrs. Daniel McGill, Malachi Jones, Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, George Gillespie, Hugh Conn, David Evans, William Stewart, Henry Hook, Robert Cross, Thomas Evans, Alexander Hutchinson, Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Robert Laing.

Elders: Messrs. John Budd, John Gardner, James Abraham, Robert Wilson, David Evans, Esq'r., Peter Bushel.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Thomson, Orme, Moses Dickinson, Webb, Pumry, Gelston, Tennent, Morgan, Davis, Bradner, Philips, Lamb.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

19 *day. At eight o'clock, according to appointment, post preces sederunt, qui supra.*

Mr. Bradner, Mr. Orme, and Mr. Webb, giving reasons of their absence by letter, their reasons were sustained.

Messrs. James Anderson, Hugh Conn, George Gillespie, and Robert Cross, being put upon the Leet in order to the choice of a moderator, Mr. James Anderson was chosen, and Mr. Cross was chosen clerk.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

Mr. Thomson, the moderator of the last Synod, being absent by reason of sickness, Mr. Andrews opened the Synod by preaching a synodical sermon from Prov. xi. 30.

Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Jonathan Dickinson, Daniel McGill, Hugh Conn, Robert Cross, with the moderator, are appointed for a committee for bills and overtures; and it is recommended to all the rest of the members of the Synod to attend upon the said committee as they can and see cause.

Mr. Malachi Jones, and Mr. David Evans, dissent from appointing any committee for bills and overtures.

Mr. Jonathan Dickinson appointed to preach to-morrow night, Mr. Stewart next Sabbath in the forenoon, Mr. Hutchinson in the afternoon, and Mr. Cross at night.

Agreed that the committee for bills and overtures be also a committee for the fund.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Pierson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle; and Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Stewart that of Long Island. The Presbytery book of Philadelphia was forgot to be brought hither.

It being inquired what collections were made for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Jones and Anderson have done somewhat in that affair, as likewise the congregation at Newark, per Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, which they are ordered to deliver to the committee of the fund. And the rest of the ministers having given their reasons why they brought no collections, the same were sustained; and it is recommended to all the members of the Synod to use their diligence to bring collections to the next Synod.

Ordered, That the commission of the Synod do bring in an account of all their proceedings to-morrow morning.

The Synod having inquired what was done in the affair relating to Mr. Walton, found that Mr. Pumry did not go to Newark as appointed, by reason of sickness, as likewise that Mr. Walton, (without any authority,) read his acknowledgment and absolved himself. Upon which the Synod, having considered the whole affair, put it to vote whether the suspension was taken off,

and it was carried in the negative. And the Synod does further appoint the Presbytery of Long Island, together with Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Pierson, to be a committee to transact in the whole affair relating to Mr. Walton, and to remove or continue the suspension as they shall see cause.

Adjourned to three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Horâ tertiâ post meridiem, post preces sederunt, qui supra.

The Synod approves of the conduct of the committee in absolving Mr. Hook.

Messrs. Hugh Conn, John Orme, and William Stewart, fulfilled their appointments with respect to Virginia.

The Presbytery of New Castle having referred a case to the Synod with respect to Mr. Robert Laing, upon whom they passed the censures of rebuke, suspension, and deposition, for violating the Lord's day, by washing himself in a creek, and for his indiscreet carriage to the Presbytery at the time of his rebuke, the Synod, after mature deliberation upon that affair, with the concurring circumstances, particularly Mr. Laing's indisposition at that time, and expectation of service from that action, do judge those censures of suspension and deposition were too severe, and do therefore repeal them; although we can't but judge Mr. Laing guilty of several very unbecoming imprudencies, worthy of rebuke, relating to that affair. Mr. Robert Cross and Mr. Thomas Evans, members of that Presbytery, did not agree to the sentence of deposition when it was passed.

A letter from the people of Virginia being read, the consideration of it was deferred till to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, *ante meridiem*, to-morrow.

20 *day. Horâ nonâ ante meridiem, sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of Virginia reassumed. The Synod having seriously considered said affair, do appoint Mr. Hugh Conn, Mr. John Orme, and Mr. William Stewart, each of them to preach four Lord's days before next Synod to that people, and it is recommended to Mr. Jonathan Dickinson to preach to said people before next Synod, some Sabbath days, and in case he goes thither, that then Mr. Pierson, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Moses Dickinson, do supply his congregation with preaching.

And it is further Ordered, That Mr. Jones and Mr. Andrews write a letter to the people of Virginia.

And it is further Ordered, That Mr. Hutchinson supply Mr. Stewart's congregation two Sabbaths during his absence in Virginia.

And it is Ordered, That a letter of address be writ to the Governor of Virginia, by Messrs. Dickinson and Cross, and that the said letter to the people of Virginia, and also this, be brought into the Synod for approbation.

A letter from the ministers of Connecticut to this Synod, desiring a conference with some of the ministers of this Synod, in order to the healing of those divisions in the Presbyterian congregation in New York, being read and maturely considered, it was ordered, that a letter be writ to the ministers of Connecticut in answer to theirs, to thank them for their concern about the interest of religion in New York, and their proposing a conference with some of us in order to heal the division in the Presbyterian congregation there, and to signify our hearty concurrence with their proposal. And withal to signify our apprehensions that the place proposed for a conference, is not so likely to answer the good intentions expressed in their letter as New York would be, and therefore to desire them to send some of their number to meet with some

of ours there, on the twenty-third of October next. Messrs. Andrews, Dickinson, Morgan, Philips, Cross, and McGill, appointed to meet the said ministers at New York, at the time before mentioned, and are empowered to act in the name and with the full power of the Synod, in the affair proposed. But if the said Connecticut ministers decline coming to New York at the time mentioned, the aforementioned members of the Synod are empowered to meet them at any other time and place for the said purpose, as they shall think reasonable. And if the good ends proposed, relating to New York, be at the conference happily accomplished, the Synod recommends it to those of their members afore appointed for said conference, to treat with said ministers of Connecticut about an union with us, and empower them to concert and conclude upon any methods that may conduce to that end. Mr. McGill and Mr. Conn appointed to write the abovesaid letter.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post merid.* Concluded with prayer.

Horâ tertiâ, post merid. sederunt qui supra.

The Synod according to an overture of the committee, resolved themselves into an interloquitur, to consider a case of conscience proposed by George Williamson, with respect to his call to the ministry, and after having heard the same, desired a further consideration of it till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

21*st day. Horâ octavâ, ante merid. sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of said George Williamson reassumed.

The ministers of the Synod having seriously and deliberately considered the above case, do, *nemine contradicente*, agree in judgment, that the said person has not any regular call that way; for though we are satisfied as to his piety and godly life, yet we think he wants necessary qualifications required in the word of God for a gospel minister, and therefore advise him to continue in the vocation wherein he is called, and endeavour to be useful as a private Christian.

The letter to the people of Virginia was read and approved.

The Presbytery book of Long-Island revised and approved.

The Presbytery book of New Castle revised and approved.

The commission of the Synod having rendered an account of their acting in the name of the Synod, it was approved.

Adjourned till four o'clock, *post merid.*

Horâ tertiâ, post merid. sederunt qui supra.

A letter to the Governor of Virginia was read and approved.

Upon a supplication from the congregation of Tree-Dyffrin, for some thing from the fund, it was overtured by the committee, that five pounds be given to said people, which overture was approved by the Synod.

From a like supplication from the people of Octararo and Hanover, it was overtured that three pounds be given to each of them; this overture was agreed to; as likewise to give three pounds to Mrs. Wilson, and one pound to Mr. Andrews for recording.

Messieurs Jones, Andrews, Anderson, Dickinson, Cross, and Evans, to be the commission of the Synod with the same power as formerly. Ordered, that the minutes be revised by the commission of the Synod. Upon reading the list of ministers the Synod found, to their great grief, that Mr. McNish was dead.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, and then to meet at Philadelphia, at two o'clock, afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

1724.

Philadelphia, Septem. 16th, 1724.

The Synod met according to appointment, *ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Malachi Jones, Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, George Gillespie, Hugh Conn, David Evans, Henry Hook, Robert Cross, John Bradner, Thomas Evans, Alexander Hutchinson, John Pierson, John Orme, Robert Laing, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, Moses Dickinson, Samuel Pumry.

Elders: Messrs. John Budd, John Gardner, James Parry, Abraham Golder, Peter Bushell, John Kale, Enoch Armitage.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, William Stewart, Joseph Webb, Joseph Morgan, Samuel Gelston, William Tennent.

Mr. Anderson opened the Synod by preaching a sermon upon 2 Cor. v. 20.

Mr. George Gillespie was chosen moderator, and Mr. Robert Cross, clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Die 17*mo. at eight o'clock, ante merid. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Webb and Mr. Tennent gave by letters the reasons of their absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

Mr. Pumry and Mr. Thomson gave the reasons of their absence last year, which were sustained.

Masters Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, Pierson, Cross, Jones, and Conn, were appointed to be a committee for the fund, and for any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

Mr. Moses Dickinson appointed to preach on Friday night.

Messrs. Pumry and Bradner appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. Masters Orme and Hook that of Long-Island. The Presbytery book of Philadelphia was wanting by reason of Mr. Jonathan Dickinson's absence.

It being inquired what collections were made for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, and Evans, had brought collections, and they were ordered to deliver them to the committee for the fund. And the rest of the ministers having given their reasons why they brought no collections, the same were sustained. And it is recommended to all the members of the Synod, to use their utmost diligence to bring collections to the next Synod.

The Synod having inquired what the committee did on the affair of Mr. Walton, did approve of their conduct and management, the account whereof is as followeth: "New York, October 25, 1723. At a meeting of the committee of the Synod, relating to the affair of Mr. Walton. Present, Messrs. Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, Samuel Pumry, Robert Cross, and Jonathan Dickinson.

"Mr. Morgan chosen Moderator, and Mr. Dickinson, clerk.

"After deliberate consideration of Mr. Walton's case, and particular hearing several scandalous allegations against him, by letters and otherwise, and his answers unto them, the question was put, whether from what we had heard we had just grounds to take off the suspension laid on him by the Synod, and we agreed in the negative *nemine contradicente.*

"Ordered, That Mr. Morgan write to the people of East-Chester, where he has lately preached, informing them of this our conclusion.

"Resolved, That the committee of the Synod convene to transact what shall appear further needful in the case of Mr. Walton, when Messrs. Ander-

son, Pumry, and Cross, shall give notice to the other members of the committee.

"The moderator being desired by the committee, after reading the above minutes to Mr. Walton, to give him an admonition, to use more care, watchfulness, and circumspection for the future, Mr. Walton did not only exclaim against our conclusion, and declare he never would have any more concern with any of our judicatories, but also refused to hear any exhortation; telling us that he did not want any exhortation from us, and that he always thought that it was all an intrigue, but was willing to try us once more, and in an angry manner rushed away from us."

Mr. Orme fulfilled the appointment of the Synod with respect to his preaching in Virginia; Mr. Conn did not, and gave his reasons, which were sustained; Mr. Stewart did not, the reasons not known, he being absent.

The Synod approves of the conduct of the committee appointed to meet with the ministers from Connecticut, to confer about the affairs of the Presbyterian congregation in New York, though their endeavours proved unsuccessful.

The Synod having received a letter from George Williamson, expressing some dissatisfaction with the judgment of the Synod in his case last year, they appointed Mr. Andrews and Mr. Thomson to write a letter to him in answer to his, and bring it into the Synod for approbation.

A letter from the people of Virginia being read and considered, the Synod have referred that whole affair to the Presbytery of New Castle, and orders a letter to be writ to said people, by Messrs. Pierson and Pumry, and to bring it to the Synod for approbation.

Messieurs Jones, Andrews, Anderson, Jonathan Dickinson, Cross, and Evans, continued to be the commissioners of the Synod, with the same power as formerly.

Upon calling the roll it was found that Mr. McGill died since our last Synod.

Mr. Bradner having desired that he might be joined to the Presbytery of Long-Island, and offered his reasons, they were sustained, and he was ordered to join with said Presbytery.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund, &c. meet at three o'clock, *post merid.*

Adjourned till five o'clock, *post merid.*

Horâ quintâ, post merid. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Moses Dickinson gave the reasons of his absence last year, which were sustained.

Messrs. Andrews and Thomson brought in the letter to be sent to George Williamson, which was approved.

Ordered, That the letter to Virginia be brought in at our next *sederunt.*

The case proposed by Mr. Webb, being considered by the committee for overtures, they made this overture upon it, viz: Overtured, that whereas the case is delivered in such general and doubtful terms that we cannot judge of it, the consideration thereof be left to the Presbytery of Philadelphia; which overture was approved by the Synod.

Mr. Tennent having written to the Synod for some supply out of the fund, his request was denied, and Mr. Moses Dickinson and Mr. John Budd ordered to write a letter to him giving the reasons thereof, and to bring it in to-morrow morning.

The overture of the committee, with reference to a supplication from some of the inhabitants of Perth Amboy, desiring sermons sometimes, being referred to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, was approved by the Synod, and Mr. An-

derson was appointed to write a letter to them, and bring it in to-morrow morning.

The consideration of a letter from Kent county, as likewise of Mr. Peter Finch's testimonials, deferred till to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

Die 18*mo. Horâ decimâ, ante meridiem, sederunt qui supra.*

The letter to be sent to Virginia was brought in and approved

A letter to be sent to Perth Amboy brought in and approved.

A letter to Mr. Tennent brought in and approved.

The affair of Mr. Finch and Kent county reassumed.

The Synod having read and considered Mr. Peter Finch his testimonials, do approve them, and do recommend him for further advice and direction to the Presbytery of New Castle, and appoint Mr. Andrews to write a letter in answer to that from the people of Kent county.

The overture of the committee to give five pounds to Mrs. Wilson, as likewise the overture to give three pounds to the people of Broad Creek, were approved.

The consideration of the Synod's meeting by delegates deferred to the next *sederunt.*

Ordered, That the Presbytery books be brought in.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Horâ tertiâ, post meridiem, sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery books of New York and New Castle brought in and approved.

The affair relating to the Synod's meeting by delegates was taken into consideration, and after reasoning upon the matter, it was at last put to the vote thus: Appear by delegates or not? And it was carried in the affirmative; and likewise concluded by vote, that the Presbytery of New Castle and Philadelphia do yearly delegate the half of their members to the Synod, and the Presbytery of Long Island two of their number. And it is further ordered, that all the members of the Synod do attend every third year; and that, if in the interim, any thing of moment do occur, whereby the presence of all the members may be thought necessary, they, (upon notice given by the commission of the Synod,) shall carefully attend notwithstanding the above delegation. And it is further agreed, that every member of the Synod may attend as formerly if they see cause.

Appointed, That the next Synod meet at Philadelphia, upon the third Wednesday of September next, at two of the clock in the afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

1725.

Philadelphia, September 15, 1725.

The Synod met by their delegates according to appointment,

Ubi post preces sederunt

Ministers delegated: Messrs. George Gillespie, David Evans, Henry Hook, Joseph Houston, Adam Boyd, Malachi Jones, Jedidiah Andrews, Jonathan Dickinson, Moses Dickinson, Samuel Gelston, William Stewart.

Ministers occasionally present: Messrs. James Anderson, John Thomson, John Pierson, Robert Laing, Noyes Parris.

Elders: Messrs. John Gardner, James Abraham, Thomas Hiott, Joseph Braden, John Hall, John Snowden, Enoch Armitage.

Mr. Gillespie, the moderator of the last Synod, opened the Synod by preaching a sermon from Col. iv. 17.

Masters Thomas Craighead, and William Tennent, delegated ministers, were absent.

Mr. Craighead sent the reasons of his absence by letter, which were sustained.

Mr. David Evans was chosen moderator, and Mr. Andrews clerk.

The last year's minutes appointed to be read.

Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, and Mr. Samuel Gelston, gave the reasons of their absence last year, which were sustained.

Masters Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, Pierson, Jones, and Jonathan Dickinson, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

Mr. Hook appointed to preach on Friday night.

Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson and Pierson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. Messrs. Hook and Boyd that of Long Island. Messrs. Gillespie and Houston that of Philadelphia. The revisers ordered to bring in the Presbytery books to-morrow afternoon.

Ordered, That those which have brought collections for the fund do deliver them to the committee for the fund.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

16 *day, at eight o'clock, post meridiem, sederunt qui supra.*

The minute that the revisers bring in the Presbytery books in the afternoon continued.

Messrs. Jones, Andrews, Anderson, Jonathan Dickinson, Cross, and Evans, continued to be the commission of the Synod with the same power as formerly.

Mr. Samuel Davis died since last Synod.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

The Synod having received a letter from Mr. John Walton, desiring us to appoint the Presbytery of Long Island to be a committee to judge in his case, it was ordered, that an extract of the minutes of the Synod, relating to his affair, be sent to him. And it was further ordered, at the desire of the Presbytery of Long Island, that this affair be left as before, viz. to the Presbytery of Long Island, together with Messrs. Morgan, Dickinson, and Pierson, and that the said members have a copy of the said extract of minutes, to dispose of as they shall see cause.

Mr. Stewart being questioned touching his not going to Virginia according to appointment, the year before last, he alleged for excuse bodily indisposition, which excuse was accepted by the Synod; and, as to his absence last year from the Synod, he brought his wife's indisposition for a reason, which was sustained.

Adjourned till five o'clock, *post meridiem.*

At five o'clock, post meridiem, sederunt, &c.

There being, according to the report of the committee for the fund, by collections and interest money brought in, the sum of ten pounds and three pence half-penny, there was given by the Synod to Mrs. Wilson five pounds; to Octorara two pounds; to Goshen two pounds; to Mr. Anderson, on account of Mr. Finch, one pound; to the door-keeper the remainder, viz. seven shillings and three pence half-penny.

The Presbytery books were brought in and approved.

Appointed, That the next Synod meet at Philadelphia, upon the third Wednesday of September next, at two o'clock, afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

1726.

Philadelphia, September 21, 1726.

The Synod met by their delegates according to appointment.

Ubi post preces sederunt

Ministers delegated: Messrs. Malachi Jones, Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, John Thomson, David Evans, Joseph Webb, Alexander Hutchinson, Noyes Parris, Thomas Evans.

Elders delegated: Charles Hofty, William Blair, John Snowden, Alexander Mulleston, James Abraham, Samuel Farrin, John Bravur, David Evans, Esquire.

Masters Joseph Morgan, William Tennent, Hugh Conn, and Robert Stewart, delegated ministers, were absent; and Mr. William Tennent was absent also last year.

Masters James Anderson, Joseph Houston, and Samuel Gelston, were members occasionally present.

Mr. Thomas Craighead was chosen moderator, and Mr. Webb clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, eight o'clock

22 *day, at eight o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. David Evans, the moderator of the last Synod, opened the Synod by preaching a sermon from Acts v. 42.

Ordered, That the last year's minutes be read.

Messrs. Jones, Andrews, Craighead, Anderson, Thomson, and Cross, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

Mr. Houston appointed to preach on Friday night.

Mr. Thomas Evans and Mr. Alexander Hutchinson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Long Island; Mr. Noyes Parris and Mr. Joseph Webb appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. The Presbytery book of Philadelphia was not brought to the Synod.

Inquiry being made who had made any collections for the fund, it was found that these following had done it, Mr. Malachi Jones, Mr. Robert Cross, Mr. John Thomson, and Mr. David Evans.

Ordered, That the ministers here present should represent to the several Presbyteries, that there be yearly something done for the fund as was formerly appointed.

It appearing that the commission of the Synod had done something relating to the fund, Ordered, That they bring in an account of it to the Synod to-morrow morning.

The committee for the fund appointed to meet at three o'clock *post merid.* together with the commissioners of the Synod.

A reference from the Presbytery of Long-Island was brought in, and the papers relating to it were read, and the consideration of that affair deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till five o'clock, *post merid.*

At five o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the Presbytery books that are here, be brought in by the members appointed to revise them, to-morrow morning.

The commissioners of the Synod brought in an account to the Synod of what they had done respecting the change of a mortgage from Joseph Harrison, which was approved.

Ordered, That the affair referred to the Synod by the Presbytery of Long-Island, be referred to the committee for an overture upon it, to be brought in next *sederunt.*

A representation being made from the Presbytery of New Castle, of the conduct of Mr. Gilbert Tennent, respecting his leaving of New Castle, desiring the judgment of the Synod in that affair; it was concluded that the said Mr. Tennent's steps were too hasty and unadvised in several particulars; and accordingly ordered the moderator to reprove him, and withal exhort him unto more caution and deliberation in his future proceedings.

Mr. William Tennent, by his son, offered the reasons of his absence, which were sustained.

The committee appointed to meet to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

23d day at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery books that were here were brought in and approved.

The committee met according to appointment, and brought in overtures upon the affair of New York congregation, (which was referred to the Synod by the Presbytery of Long-Island,) which overture, (after reading and mature deliberation had upon them,) were unanimously approved, and ordered to be transcribed and inserted in our minutes. The overtures are as followeth:

Overtured, That Dr. Nicholls' conduct, (as represented to us by the elders and representatives of the Presbyterian congregation of New York,) appears unjustifiable and unbecoming the gospel; and we cannot but judge it to be so in the following respects, (until we are otherwise informed,) viz:

1. In his disposing of the money sent from Great Britain for the payment of the Church's debt, without consulting the representatives, who are equally concerned with him in the affair.

2. In refusing to cancel or deliver up the bonds paid with the public money.

3. In exacting interest in such a rigorous manner, for money laid out for promoting the interest of Christ, as he at first professed.

4. In disregarding the Presbytery, and not attending the Synod in the affair of the representation, when he was apprized that the affair was referred to the Synod.

5. In applying to Boston for a minister without the concurrence of Presbytery or Synod, or the elders and representatives of the congregation.

Overtured further, That a letter be wrote to Dr. Nicholl, expressing the mind of the Synod fully with respect to his conduct. And a letter to the ministers of Boston not to countenance the Doctor in this matter, until he give satisfaction. And a letter to the elders and representatives of New York congregation.

Further overtured, That the Synod, (as things now appear,) doth judge it to be the duty of Dr. Nicholl, to give such satisfaction to the said representatives in the affair of the public money and bonds, as will appear satisfactory in the judgment of the Synod or the commissioners of the Synod. Until which time the Synod cannot concur with him in any of his endeavours for obtaining a minister.

Overtured, That the Synod are willing to contribute their best endeavours for the good of the congregation of New York, and (in case of Mr. Anderson's removal,) take care to provide supplies for them while vacant, and provide a pastor for them as soon as Providence may open a door. And for this purpose do recommend them to the care of the Presbytery of Long-Island, to which they belong, together with such correspondents from the Presbytery of Philadelphia as may be thought needful.

Overtured, That Mr. Anderson, (according to his desire,) be left at his liberty to remove from New York, and to accept of a call from any other people, as Providence may determine; and the congregation of New York be at

liberty to call another minister, (in an orderly way,) as soon as they shall pay up what arrears appear justly due to Mr. Anderson.

Overtured, That a letter be wrote to Mr. Smith in answer to his to the Synod, letting him know, that the Synod will not remit that money for which Mr. McNish's estate stands obliged, and that he take care about it; and likewise a letter be wrote to Mr. William Tennent, of the same purport.

Ordered, That Messrs. Jones and Andrews write the letter to the ministers of Boston; Messrs. Thomson and David Evans to Dr. Nicholl; Messrs. Thomas Evans and Webb to the congregation of New York; and Messrs. Gelston and Parris, those to Mr. Tennent and Mr. Joseph Smith, and that they be brought into the Synod to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At 3 o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An appeal from some members of Mr. Houston's congregation being presented to the Synod, and all papers relating to that affair being read, as also all that the parties had to say patiently heard, the consideration thereof was deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

24th day at eight o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The letters mentioned in a former minute were all brought in and approved.

The affair of the abovesaid appeal being reassumed, and much time spent in debating and considering of it, it was put to vote, whether approve or disapprove of the Presbytery's conduct with respect to the matter of said appeal, and it was carried in the affirmative *nemine contradicente.* Upon the whole, the Synod after mature deliberation, do judge that the appellants have acted irregular in separating from the congregation whereof they are members, and going about to build a separate meeting-house, which seems to have a visible tendency to the hurt and detriment of the interest of Christ and religion in that place. And do further judge the treatment they have given to the Presbytery of New Castle, as appears by their own papers, to be unjustifiable and justly censurable, and do exhort said persons to return to the congregation to which they belong, and endeavour to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

A call from the people of Dunegall to the Rev. Mr. James Anderson, being presented to the Synod, the Synod recommended said call to Mr. Anderson for his consideration about it.

Adjourned till two o'clock, *post merid.*

At two o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

There being from time to time complaints of the weakness and deficiency of Mr. Robert Laing, rendering his exercise of the ministerial function a detriment to the interest of religion, and rather a scandal than an help to the gospel; the Synod advise him to demit the whole exercise of the ministry, and not to take it up again but by the approbation of at least three ministers of the Presbytery wherein he may reside; the said Mr. Laing did quietly and humbly acquiesce in the aforesaid advice. And there being a motion made, that in case Mr. Laing should remove unto some place in the skirts of the Synod, so that the commissioners may not be apprized of his circumstances in order to his relief, should there be need of it, that any member or members of the Synod administering to his necessities in a prudent way, (wherein they shall be accountable to the Synod,) may be reimbursed by the Synod. The said motion was approved of by the Synod, the said Mr. Laing bringing with

him such credentials as may testify of his good moral behaviour. And the Synod did, for the present, in testimony of their compassion, give him out of the fund the sum of forty shillings.

Mr. Webb giving account of some difficulties in his congregation, which he hoped might be healed by a committee appointed by the Synod, it was (in compliance with his desire,) ordered, that Messrs. Morgan, Anderson, Cross, Pierson, Gelston, Jonathan Dickinson, and Andrews, should be the said committee, and meet at Newark on the fourth Wednesday of October next, to act with the full power of the Synod in all matters that may be laid before them with respect to that congregation, and bring an account of what they do to the next Synod.

Messrs. Jones, Andrews, Evans, Anderson, Cross, and Jonathan Dickinson, continued to be the commissioners of the Synod, with the same power as formerly.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, then to meet at Philadelphia at two o'clock, afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

1727.

September 20*th*, 1727.

The full Synod met at Philadelphia according to appointment, when *post preces sederunt*,

Ministers: Messrs. Malachi Jones, Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, James Anderson, Joseph Morgan, George Gillespie, Hugh Conn, William Stewart, John Pierson, David Evans, William Tennent, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Houston, John Bradner, Thomas Evans, Henry Hook, Nathaniel Hubbill, Alexander Hutchinson, Gilbert Tennent, Joseph Webb, Archibald McCook, Adam Boyd.

Elders present: Messrs. Joseph Charlesworth, John Snowden, John Montgomery, Archibald Smith, James Mitchell, John Hutten, Joseph Steel, James Abraham, James Smith, Joseph Thomas, Jacob King, Samuel Allen, David Lawson, Arthur Park.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Samuel Pumry, Robert Cross, Noyes Parris.

Mr. John Pierson was chosen moderator, and Mr. Thomas Evans clerk.

Mr. Craighead opened the Synod by preaching a sermon from 1 Tim. iv. 14, 15.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

21 *day, at eight o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Cross, and Orme, gave by letters the reasons of their absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

Masters William Tennent, Conn, and Stewart, gave the reasons of their absence last Synod, which were sustained.

Masters Jones, Andrews, Craighead, Anderson, Thomson, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any other business that the Synod shall recommend to them.

Masters Bradner and William Tennent appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. The Presbytery books of Long Island and Philadelphia were not brought to the Synod, and the reasons thereof were sustained.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the Synod, it was found that Mr. Andrews had brought somewhat.

The committee for the fund appointed to meet at three o'clock, *post meridiem*, together with the commission of the Synod.

A petition and other papers being brought into the Synod by Dr. Nicolls,

they were read, and referred to the consideration of the committee to bring in overtures upon them.

The transactions of the committee last year appointed to meet at Newark, were brought in, read, and approved.

Masters Jones, Andrews, David Evans, Cross, Jonathan Dickinson, and Pierson, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

A letter was presented to the Synod from the ministers of Boston, in New England, as also another from the Presbyterian congregation at New York, referring to the ordination of Mr. Pemberton, and his settlement at New York, and proposing his admission as a member of the Synod; both which being read, the consideration of that whole affair was referred to the committee to bring in an overture upon it.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

22 day, at eight o'clock, ante meridiem, post preces, sederunt qui supra.

Overtured, upon the affair of the congregation at New York, That, although the Synod, according to the representat on then made to them, saw cause last year to find fault with several parts of Dr. Nicoll's management with respect to the public money belonging to the congregation there, yet inasmuch as the body of that congregation have signified by their letter to this Synod, that they are fully satisfied with the Doctor's accounts and conduct in that affair, the Synod think they have no more to do in that matter, saving still the right and privilege of the representatives or others, hereafter to remonstrate their dissatisfactions, if they have any, in a regular way before Presbytery or Synod; which overture was approved of.

And as to the call and settlement of the Rev. Mr. Pemberton at New York, the Synod does declare that the rules of our Presbyterian constitution were not observed in several respects by that congregation in that matter. This also passed by the Synod, *nemine contradicente.*

And it was put to the vote, Receive or delay the receiving of Mr. Pemberton as a member of this Synod; and it was carried for delaying, which delay did not flow from any disrespect to Mr. Pemberton, or any fault objected against him, but from other reasons.

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces, sederunt qui supra.

The further consideration of the affair of New York deferred till to-morrow morning.

Two letters were brought in, one from the party dissenting from Mr. Houston's congregation, and another from the said congregation, which were referred to the committee to bring in overtures upon them.

A supplication from a party of Mr. Boyd's congregation, referred also to the committee for the same purpose.

The committee appointed to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow, *ante meridiem.*

23 day. Ten o'clock, ante meridiem. Post preces, sederunt qui supra.

The affair of New York continued.

The affair relating to Mr. Houston's congregation and the disaffected neighbours, reassumed.

Overtured, upon the affair of Elk River, That inasmuch as although both the Presbytery of New Castle and our Synod have condemned the proceedings of that party, who have supplicated for a new erection, yet they appearing constantly and firmly resolved not to be reconciled to that congregation as a part of it, in order to attend God's worship in their old meeting-house, by

reason of feuds and differences arising between them and some of the members of that congregation; and inasmuch as the erecting of that party as a distinct separate congregation as yet, appears to have an evident tendency to weaken and disable, if not utterly destroy that congregation, by reason of the paucity and poverty of the inhabitants of our persuasion there, partly by reason of the ill situation of the new-meeting-house, which, upon supposition of a new erection, will infer a necessity of joining a considerable part of Mr. Houston's congregation with that new erection, the Synod being desirous of taking healing as well as just measures to determine in that affair, do judge as followeth, viz.

First, That that party be allowed to have a new meeting-house in some part of their side of the congregation, yet still to remain a part of that congregation until the Presbytery or Synod have more encouragement for a new erection.

Secondly, That in order to this, the new meeting-house be removed to any place above six miles distance in a direct line from the old meeting-house, which the said supplicants shall agree upon, and that it be seven miles from any other.

Thirdly, That upon the compliance of said party with said terms, Mr. Houston's congregation shall contribute to the removal of the said new meeting-house in proportions to their subscriptions.

Or, that those supplicants shall be erected into a separate congregation as soon as they, at their own expense, do remove their new meeting-house as aforesaid, and that none that are now orderly members of Mr. Houston's congregation, shall be received as members of said erection without the consent of the congregation, or order of the Presbytery.

This overture was read before the Synod, and all parties being patiently heard in what they had to offer upon it, and after considerable reasoning upon the whole affair, parties being removed, it was put to the vote, whether this overture should be approved or not, and it was carried in the affirmative unanimously, save only one dissentient.

Ordered, That no minister preach in the said new meeting-house while in that place where it now is.

The committee appointed to meet at eight o'clock, Monday morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, Monday morning.

25 *day, Monday, ten o'clock, A. M. post preces, sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of New York was reassumed.

Masters Andrews, Morgan, Jonathan Dickinson, Pierson, and Webb, appointed to be a committee to meet at New York to accommodate matters of difference between that congregation and the Presbytery of Long Island, and also any other differences that may be among themselves about their church settlement, and particularly to receive Mr. Pemberton as a member of the Synod, or not, as they shall see cause. As to the time of the meeting of the said committee, it is determined that it shall be at such time as the congregation of New York shall agree upon, they giving reasonable notice to the members of the committee, and the Presbytery of Long Island, that they may meet there together.

Ordered, That a letter be writ to the congregation at New York by Mr. Andrews and the moderator, and another to the Presbytery of Long Island by Masters Anderson and Thomson.

And it was further Ordered, That the said committee shall write to Scotland, giving an account of the affairs of New York congregation, at their own discretion.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces, sederunt qui supra.

A paper of protest was brought into the Synod, after all business was done, by Messrs. Jones, David Evans, Webb, and Hubbell, which was ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, and then to meet at Philadelphia.

1728.

September 18, 1728.

The delegated Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment.

Ubi post preces sederunt

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, James Anderson, Joseph Morgan, George Gillespie, John Pierson, William Tennent, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Houston, Gilbert Tennent, Archibald McCook, Adam Boyd, Jonathan Dickinson, Samuel Pumry, Robert Cross, Noyes Parris.

Elders: Messrs. John Budd, John Cochran, Archibald Smith, Richard Allison, John Hutton, John Cross, Robert Linton, Moses Rolph, Roger Train, Arthur Park, Nathaniel Hazzard, William More.

Mr. Andrews was chosen moderator, and Mr. Boyd was chosen clerk.

Mr. Pierson opened the Synod with a sermon upon 2 Tim. iii. 5.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

Masters Craighead, William Tennent, Anderson, Thomson, Cross, Dickinson, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any other business that the Synod shall recommend to them.

Masters Houston and Boyd ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Masters William Tennent and Pierson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

The Presbytery book of Long Island was not brought, and the reason of it was sustained.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that Mr. Anderson had brought somewhat. And it was recommended, that the appointment in reference to the raising collections for the fund be carefully observed for the future.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at eight o'clock, to-morrow, *ante merid.* together with the commissioners of the Synod.

Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and Gillespie, appointed to be the commissioners of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Ordered, That the committee appointed last year to go to New York, bring in their minutes relating to that affair to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow, *ante meridiem.*

19th day, ten o'clock, A. M. post preces, sederunt qui supra.

Agreed that the interest of Mr. William Tennent's bond be remitted till this time. Agreed to take Mr. Tennent's own bond for that money due to the Synod for which Mr. McNish's estate was engaged.

Ordered that the committee meet at four o'clock.

Adjourned till five o'clock, *post merid.*

At five o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed last Synod to meet at New York, in order to inspect into the affairs of that congregation, as also to consult about Mr. Pemberton's admission as a member of the Synod, having produced their minutes,

and the said minutes being read and considered,* the following questions were proposed to the vote of the Synod.

1. Whether the committee had authority from the Synod to consider the admission of Mr. Pemberton as a member of the Synod, without previously

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* The minutes of the committee that met at New York, November 15, 1727.

New York, November 15, 1727.

According to the appointment of the Synod of Philadelphia, the committee for the affair of the Presbyterian congregation at New York, convened at New York the time above mentioned, *ubi post preces sederunt*, Messrs. Morgan, Pierson, Webb, and Jonathan Dickinson. Mr. Pierson chosen moderator, and Mr. Dickinson clerk.

Mr. Webb having at the Synod last sitting at Philadelphia, signed a protestation and withal declared his purpose to join no more with the Synod, he does now before this committee retract that his declaration of withdrawal from the Synod, and declare his future purpose of continuing a member of and joining with the Synod.

Adjourned till five o'clock, *post merid.*

At five o'clock, post merid. post preces sederunt qui supra.

After hearing several debates between Dr. Nicoll and some others that offered complaints against Dr. Nicoll, the committee saw it necessary to put off the further consideration thereof till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

16*th day at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair between Dr. Nicoll and some others of this congregation being reassumed, the Committee found it necessary to defer it till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post merid.*

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee having used their endeavours to procure a reconciliation between Dr. Nicoll and Masters Liddell, Blake, and Ingliss, and to have the differences between them relating to the Presbyterian church at New York amicably healed, have the satisfaction and comfort of their coming now into an happy agreement on these following terms.

1. That Masters Liddel, Blake, and Ingliss, shall, as soon as with conveniency it can be done, make over and convey all their right, title, and interest in the Presbyterian church or meeting-house in New York, to the Rev. Masters William Mitchell, William Wisheart, William Hamilton, —— Miller, and —— Hart, ministers in Edinburgh, in North Britain, and to Dr. John Nicoll abovesaid, in trust for the use of the Presbyterian Congregation in New York, and to and for no other use whatsoever. And that by the same instrument of conveyance, they authorize and impower the Presbytery of Edinburgh, for the time being, from time to time, and at any time hereafter, to appoint and put in trust, under their hands and seals, whomsoever they shall think proper, in the room and place and with the full power and authority of any of the said gentlemen above mentioned, upon his or their death, and of all of them successively upon their decease.

2. That Dr. Nicoll do cancel and make void what bonds of the said Liddel, Blake, and Ingliss, he has in his hands, either given to him by them, or assigned to him by any others that were given on account of the said Presbyterian church or meeting-house in New York, and that he free and indemnify them from all former obligations to him on account of said church, and particularly from a bond conjunctly given by him and them unto Mr. Samuel Bayard.

3. That the said Dr. Nicoll do give a bond of two thousand pounds to the above mentioned ministers of Edinburgh, that neither he nor his heirs shall alienate his or their right, title, or interest, in the above mentioned church, or meeting-house, or the ground thereunto belonging, from the use of a Presbyterian congregation in New York, for ever. And also that, as soon as the said Dr. Nicoll shall be paid and reimbursed what is due to him on account of the said church, or meeting-house, and ground, that he will also make over his right and interest in the said house and ground, to the above mentioned ministers of Edinburgh, in the same form, and to the same intents and purposes as the said Liddel, Blake, and Ingliss, shall do. And also, that Dr. Nicoll shall oblige himself by a bond of five hundred pounds, to be given to Masters John Pierson, Robert Cross, and Jonathan Dickinson, that, notwithstanding his mortgage upon the said church, or meeting-

considering what the Presbytery of Long-Island had to offer in that affair. Carried in the negative by a great majority.

2. Whether the Synod approve of the conduct of the committee with relation to the divisions of the said congregation. Carried in the affirmative *nemine contradicente.*

3. Whether Mr. Pemberton be allowed as a member of this Synod, by virtue of what the committee has done. Carried in the negative.

4. Whether notwithstanding of all the irregularity that was in the accession of Mr. Pemberton to New York, the Synod do now accept him as a member. Carried in the affirmative *nemine contradicente.*

And it is left to Mr. Pemberton and the congregation, to join what Presbytery they shall think fit.

Diverse papers of complaint against Mr. Morgan were read, the consideration of them deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow, A. M.

20th day at eight o'clock, ante merid. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. Morgan reassumed, and the further consideration of it deferred till afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

As to the accusations against Mr. Morgan, the Synod judges in the several articles as followeth.

As to the first article the Synod judges that Mr. Morgan's declaration of his judgment in that affair is satisfactory.

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house, he will concur with such men as the said ministers of Edinburgh shall appoint, in the sale of such pews in the said church as shall be ordered to be sold by the major part of the said Presbyterian congregation in New York.

4. It is also agreed by Dr. Nicoll, that no reparation or addition shall be made to the said church without the consent and direction of the major part of the congregation, and upon their charge.

5. It is agreed, that the congregation shall, if they please, by a majority of votes, choose five men as public managers or representatives. And the said Dr. Nicoll does also agree that whosoever of the congregation desires it, shall have copies at their own charge, of whatever papers are now in his hands that refer to the building of the Presbyterian church in New York.

As an evidence that the abovesaid Masters Liddel, Blake, and Ingliss, do consent and agree to all the abovesaid articles, they hereunto set their hands in the presence of the committee.

JOHN NICOLL,
THOMAS INGLISS,
JOHN BLAKE,
JOSEPH LIDDELL.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock.

17 day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Being proposed to the committee, and agreed upon by Dr. Nicoll and several members of the congregation, that there be two men chosen by the congregation to account with said Dr. Nicoll, from time to time, for whatever money he shall receive towards the payment of the debt due to him from the church, the committee approve of the overture and recommend it to the congregation.

Mr. Pemberton appearing before this committee and desiring admission, as a member of the Synod of Philadelphia, promised upon such admission all subjection to the said Synod in the Lord, the committee can see no reason why such admission should be refused or delayed, and do therefore admit him as a member of the said Synod.

The committee having received a letter from the commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, wrote an answer thereunto, representing thereby the present state of the congregation of New York, and then concluded.

As to the second article the Synod judges that it laid no foundation for a public accusation.

As to the third article, the Synod agree that Mr. Morgan's answer in reference thereto is sufficient, and that the accusers had no just ground of separation on that score.

As to the fourth article, 1. The Synod do bear their strongest testimony against the practice of judicial astrology. 2. That the Synod think they have sufficient evidence that Mr. Morgan is far from approving that art, and has given all his accusers sufficient grounds of satisfaction in that matter, both publicly and privately. 3. The Synod judge Mr. Morgan's accusers to be very culpable in bringing in this article against him, when they have sat peaceably under his ministry, and partook with him in sealing ordinances many years after the things were done that they complain of. 4. And after all, the Synod cannot clear Mr. Morgan from imprudence and misconduct in making the two alleged experiments of that kind, if the reports be true, were his ends never so good and laudable.

As to the fifth article, although the Synod do not approve promiscuous dancing, yet they judge it a clear indication of the captious and querulous spirit of Mr. Morgan's accusers, that they offer such a complaint against him.

As to the sixth article, the Synod have satisfying evidence that the accusation is false in fact.

As to the seventh article, it also appears to the Synod, (notwithstanding any evidence brought to confirm it,) to be a groundless prosecution against one, who has ever been esteemed a temperate man. However, if there be any other evidence against Mr. Morgan in this article, as is alleged by some of his accusers, they may offer such evidence to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, to which Mr. Morgan belongs.

There being an overture presented to the Synod in writing, having reference to the subscribing of the Confession of Faith, &c. the Synod judging this to be a very important affair, unanimously concluded to defer the consideration of it till the next Synod; withal recommending it to the members of each Presbytery present to give timeous notice thereof to the absent members, and it is agreed that the next be a full Synod.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

21st day at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia having referred the consideration of an appeal, from sundry persons excommunicated by Mr. Jones, to the Synod, the Synod have deferred the same till Monday morning at ten o'clock, in order that Mr. Jones may have notice thereof; also ordered, that the appellant give Mr. Jones an account of this minute this day.

The Synod having considered the affair of the people that appealed to them from the Presbytery of New Castle, came to this conclusion, that the minutes of the last year's Synod with respect to them be complied with; and further agree that they shall build no other meeting-house in another place besides that chosen by them, without the approbation of the Presbytery or Synod first obtained.

Adjourned till eight o'clock on Monday morning.

23d day, at eight o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Letters came to the Synod from Mrs. Catharine Wood, who stands excommunicated by the Baptist Church in Philadelphia, complaining against the censure of that Church, and desiring the Synod to relieve her; which being considered by an interloquitur of the Synod, it was agreed that a letter should be writ to that church, desiring a conference between three or four of them and

as many of us relating to that affair; which letter being wrote and delivered, and no answer from them yet come, the Synod agreed to leave the consideration of any answer that might be brought, and what else may occur about that matter, to the management of the commission of the Synod, the time of the Synod's sitting being near expired.

The Synod having received several letters from sundry persons at New York, full of complaints against diverse persons, without timeously advertising said persons thereof, for ought that we know, that they might take measures to justify themselves, the Synod would take no cognizance of these complaints by reason of the absence of the parties complained of, but remit them to the Presbytery, which the congregation shall be annexed unto by their own choice, to inspect into these matters, and withal do earnestly request all parties there to lay aside all heats and animosities, and endeavour for peace as much as possible. In the mean time the Synod allows the complainants, viz: Masters Blake, Ingliss, and Liddell, to join with any neighbouring congregation of our communion, as to sacramental communion, until said differences are happily removed. And it is the advice of the Synod, that the contending parties there about accounts, do choose suitable persons to adjust and settle them. And for the demand of Mr. Anderson of money, that he says is due to him, the Synod do earnestly recommend it to the congregation to inspect into that affair, Mr. Anderson being willing to refer his demand to the judgment of any prudent indifferent persons, that themselves shall choose, which in the judgment of the Synod is so fair on his side, that they cannot but think it must needs lead to an end of that difference.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Six persons that were excommunicated by the Rev. Mr. Malachi Jones, namely, George Renock and his wife, Robert Poke, William Renock and his wife, and Henry Jameson, appealing to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, from the sentence of excommunication passed against them, and the Presbytery having referred that matter to the determination of the Synod; after hearing two of the appellants and two of Mr. Jones's church, (whereof one was an elder,) declaring what they knew of the offences charged against the appellants, as also read and considered the extract of the minutes of the excommunication; the Synod, after due deliberation, came to this conclusion: That whereas the appellants do freely own, in their own names, and in the names of them that are absent, their breaking away from the communion of Mr. Jones's church, without previous application made for certificates of dismission, was a disorder and a fault for which they are very sorry, and do ask forgiveness of God and all those that they did offend by this disorderly step; the Synod does appoint, that upon their acknowledging this their offence, by a writing read or offered to be read in Mr. Jones's congregation, the said appellants shall be absolved from the aforesaid sentence, and so be free to join with what congregation they please.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, and then to meet at Philadelphia at 11 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1729.

September 17th, 1729.

The Synod met according to appointment, *ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, James Anderson, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Houston, Gilbert Tennent, Adam Boyd, Jonathan Dickinson, John Bradner, Hutchinson, Thomas Evans, Daniel Elmer, Stevenson, William Tennent, Hugh Conn, John Orme, George Gillespie, John Willson.

Elders: Messrs. John Budd, William Blair, John Allen, James Galbreath, Moses Rolf, John Thomson, John Devor, Solomon Carpenter, William Williams, Edmund Crapper, Jonathan Fithian, George Renocks, John Cross.

Ministers absent: Masters Joseph Morgan, Pemberton, Cross, Webb, Pumry, Stewart, and Hook.

Mr. Andrews opened the Synod with a sermon on Col. iii. 17.

Mr. Anderson chosen moderator, and Mr. Thomas Evans clerk.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

18 *day, at eight o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

In calling over the roll we found that since our last the Rev. Mr. Malachi Jones, heretofore a member with us, and the Rev. Mr. Archibald McCook, were departed this life.

The Synod inquiring into the reasons of the absence of Mr. Parris, were informed that he is disorderly withdrawn, and gone to New England, under the imputation of scandal, and it is ordered, that Mr. Dickinson do write a letter to Boston relating the circumstances of said affair.

Masters Andrews, Dickinson, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Conn, Budd, and the moderator, be a committee for the fund, or any other business that the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Masters Houston and Bradner ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia, and Masters Gilbert Tennent and Elmer to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. The Presbytery book of Long Island was absent.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that the members have been generally defective in that matter, and it was recommended that the appointment in reference to the raising collections for the fund, be carefully observed for the future, and that the Synod's letter relating to it be read yearly in the congregations within our bounds as formerly.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at three o'clock, P. M. together with the commission of the Synod.

Masters Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and Gillespie, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year.

The affair relating to the confession under our consideration since our last, is referred to the committee to draw up an overture upon it.

Inquiry being made with respect to Mrs. Catharine Wood, it was found that endeavours had been used in order to accommodate said affair, but to little purpose hitherto; and the said affair is wholly left to the management of any Presbytery to which she shall apply, as they shall see cause. And the better to enable the said Presbytery to conduct themselves in it, the Synod, having been informed that her old friends, the Baptists, say that they have nothing to object against her, and that any other society are at liberty to receive her, if they shall see cause, they do judge that she is virtually released from the censure she laid under, and therefore that she may be received as a member of a Christian church, if the differences between her husband and her were accommodated, for any thing that appears to them.

The Synod being informed that our former minute relating to arrears claimed by Mr. Anderson from the congregation at New York, was not complied with, they do recommend the said affair to the inspection of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

19 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

The Rev. Mr. John Willson coming providentially into these parts, signify-

ing his desire of being admitted as a member of the Synod, his credentials being read, and the Synod satisfied therewith, he was unanimously received.

The committee brought in an overture upon the affair of the confession, which, after long debating upon it, was agreed upon *in hæc verba.*

Although the Synod do not claim or pretend to any authority of imposing our faith upon other men's consciences, but do profess our just dissatisfaction with, and abhorrence of such impositions, and do utterly disclaim all legislative power and authority in the Church, being willing to receive one another as Christ has received us to the glory of God, and admit to fellowship in sacred ordinances, all such as we have grounds to believe Christ will at last admit to the kingdom of heaven, yet we are undoubtedly obliged to take care that the faith once delivered to the saints be kept pure and uncorrupt among us, and so handed down to our posterity; and do therefore agree that all the ministers of this Synod, or that shall hereafter be admitted into this Synod, shall declare their agreement in, and approbation of, the Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, as being in all the essential and necessary articles, good forms of sound words and systems of Christian doctrine, and do also adopt the said Confession and Catechisms as the confession of our faith. And we do also agree, that all the Presbyteries within our bounds shall always take care not to admit any candidate of the ministry into the exercise of the sacred function but what declares his agreement in opinion with all the essential and necessary articles of said Confession, either by subscribing the said Confession of Faith and Catechisms, or by a verbal declaration of their assent thereto, as such minister or candidate shall think best. And in case any minister of this Synod, or any candidate for the ministry, shall have any scruple with respect to any article or articles of said Confession or Catechisms, he shall at the time of his making said declaration declare his sentiments to the Presbytery or Synod, who shall, notwithstanding, admit him to the exercise of the ministry within our bounds, and to ministerial communion, if the Synod or Presbytery shall judge his scruple or mistake to be only about articles not essential and necessary in doctrine, worship, or government. But if the Synod or Presbytery shall judge such ministers or candidates erroneous in essential and necessary articles of faith, the Synod or Presbytery shall declare them uncapable of communion with them. And the Synod do solemnly agree, that none of us will traduce or use any opprobrious terms of those that differ from us in these extra-essential and not necessary points of doctrine, but treat them with the same friendship, kindness, and brotherly love, as if they had not differed from us in such sentiments.

Mr. Morgan sent a letter to the Synod giving his reasons for his absence, which were sustained.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

All the ministers of this Synod now present, except one that declared himself not prepared, viz. Masters Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, James Anderson, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Houston, Gilbert Tennent, Adam Boyd, Jonathan Dickinson, John Bradner, Alexander Hutchinson, Thomas Evans, Hugh Stevenson, William Tennent, Hugh Conn, George Gillespie, and John Willson, after proposing all the scruples that any of them had to make against any articles and expressions in the Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, have unanimously agreed in the solution of those scruples, and in declaring the said Confession and Catechisms to be the con-

fession of their faith, excepting only some clauses in the twentieth and twenty-third chapters, concerning which clauses the Synod do unanimously declare, that they do not receive those articles in any such sense as to suppose the civil magistrate hath a controlling power over Synods with respect to the exercise of their ministerial authority; or power to persecute any for their religion, or in any sense contrary to the Protestant succession to the throne of Great Britain.

The Synod observing that unanimity, peace, and unity, which appeared in all their consultations and determinations relating to the affair of the Confession, did unanimously agree in giving thanks to God in solemn prayer and praises.

A supplication from the congregation of New London, as also another supplication from the congregation of Upper Elk, being read and heard, the consideration of them was delayed till our next.

Ordered, That Masters William Tennent, and Gilbert Tennent, Willson, and Elmer, be a committee to inspect into the business between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy, which was transmitted from the committee to the Synod.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning.

20th day at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of New London and the congregation of Upper Elk was reassumed, and after a long debate and deliberate consideration upon it, the Synod agreed to abate half a mile of the distance from the meeting-house of Upper Elk, under which they were limited by a former act of the Synod for building of a new meeting-house.

Application from the people of Wallakill being presented to the Synod by their commissioner, John McNeal, representing their request of supplies of preaching among them, they were recommended to the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, Monday morning.

22d day, at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

The committee appointed to inspect into the affair between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy, brought in their determination upon it, which was approven by the Synod, and is as follows. Whereas the reverend Synod appointed a committee to hear and offer an overture upon an affair in debate between Samuel Nealy and his wife on the one part, and John Carpenter, belonging to Mr. Bradner's charge, on the other part, issuing in the said Nealy and his wife their exclusion from sealing ordinances; it is humbly offered, that according to what appears to said committee, it is by them resolved, that the Rev. Mr. Bradner release said Nealy and his wife from the censure they are laid under, they returning cheerfully and fully to their duty, and that mutual amity and Christian affection be exercised towards each other by all parties concerned with relation to this affair.

A motion being made to know the Synod's judgment about the directory, they gave their sense of that matter in the following words, viz: The Synod do unanimously acknowledge and declare, that they judge the directory for worship, discipline, and government of the church, commonly annexed to the Westminster Confession, to be agreeable in substance to the word of God, and founded thereupon, and therefore do earnestly recommend the same to all their members, to be by them observed as near as circumstances will allow, and Christian prudence direct.

Overtured That the Synod do bear their testimony against, and declare

their great dissatisfaction at the religious law-suits that are maintained among professors of religion, so contrary to that peace and love which the gospel requires, and the express direction of the Holy Ghost, 1 Cor. vi. 1, 2, 3, and consequently very much to the scandal of our holy profession. And that, therefore, the Synod do recommend to all the ministers within our bounds, to use their utmost endeavour to bring their several and respective congregations into a joint agreement to avoid to their utmost all unnecessary law-suits for the future, and to refer such differences as cannot be easily accommodated between the parties themselves, to some prudent, religious, and indifferent friends, if it may be of our own profession, mutually chosen by the contending parties, or otherwise, as such society shall think best, to decide and determine such differences. This overture was approved by the Synod *nemine contradicente.*

Mr. Gelston representing to the Synod, the desire of the congregation of New London to have indifferent men chosen for a perambulation in order to accommodate the situation of a meeting-house for them, which being put to vote, was carried in the negative. Upon which there was a protest presented against the proceeding of the Synod in this affair, signed by Robert Finney and James Muir.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the Synod be read.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, and then to meet a full Synod at Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, *ante meridiem.* Concluded with prayer.

1730.

The Synod met according to appointment,

September 16*th*, 1730. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, James Anderson, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, Joseph Houston, William Tennent, David Evans, Gilbert Tennent, Adam Boyd, Alexander Hutchinson, Joseph Morgan, Daniel Elmer, Thomas Evans, Ebenezer Pemberton, Ebenezer Goold.

Elders: Messrs. John Budd, John Montgomery, James Turner, Robert Finney, William Miller, James Whitehead, Francis Alexander, William Bradford, Nathaniel Hazzard, Alexander White.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Cross, Dickinson, Conn, Orme, Stevenson, Stewart, Bradner, Webb, Pumry, Hook, and Wilson.

Mr. William Tennent chosen moderator, and Mr. Houston clerk.

Mr. Anderson, the last moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 1 Tim. vi. 20.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

The reasons of Mr. Pemberton's absence last year sustained.

Mr. Dickinson being absent there could be no account of his writing to New England in relation to Mr. Parris his irregular withdrawing, according to the last year's appointment.

Masters Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Anderson, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and for any other business that the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Masters Boyd and Hutchinson ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia. The Presbytery book of New Castle not being filled up, was not brought.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found

that Masters Gillespie, Pierson, Boyd, and Houston, had brought collections which are to be delivered to the committee for the fund. And it is agreed that the collections for the fund be continued yearly.

Masters Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and Gillespie, appointed to be the commissioners of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Ordered, That the commissioners of the Synod report what they have done since the last Synod, after the minutes are read.

A letter from Mrs. Catharine Wood to the Synod; the Synod refers the consideration of said letter to the committee of the Synod.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that what was ordered by the last Synod in relation to New York congregation and Mr. Anderson, is happily accommodated.

Mr. Elmer desiring time last Synod to consider of the Synod's declaring to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, &c.; and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Pemberton being absent, do all now report that they have declared before the Presbytery, and desire that their names be inserted in our Synodical records.

Ordered, That the committee meet to-morrow at eight o'clock, A. M. and the Synod at ten o'clock, *ante merid.*

17th day at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

Mr. Hook and Mr. Webb sent their letters of excuse for their absence, which were sustained. Mr. Cross' letter of excuse for this year's absence was not sustained.

Ordered, That Mr. Andrews write to Mr. Bradner, that the plain intent and meaning of the last year's minute, with respect to him and Samuel Nealy and his wife, was, that there should be no censure upon Nealy, for things past, but that *Nealy's returning to his duty*, was, *his returning to a Christian deportment to Mr. Bradner as a minister of the gospel*, and accordingly Mr. Bradner was to treat him. And it is the judgment of the Synod, that he the said Nealy, be received to communion unless new matter of scandal appear against him.

Upon the reading of our last year's minutes in relation to the situation of Mr. Gelston's meeting-house, that was represented to the Synod by several members of the New Castle Presbytery, that Mr. Gelston's people have not fulfilled the order of the Synod as to the moving of their meeting-house, having entered their protest against the Synod's proceedings in relation thereunto. The Synod, after much discourse upon this affair, at last came to this resolution, viz: that certain persons be appointed to perambulate the bounds and confines of Mr. Houston's and Mr. Gelston's congregations, and to make a representation of what discoveries they can make, in order to bring the matter of difference between those congregations to an amicable accommodation; and if Mr. Gelston's congregation will cordially encourage and support said persons appointed so to perambulate, and also submit to the judgment of the Synod in pursuance of said perambulation, well; but if Mr. Gelston's congregation will either not encourage, support, and assist said perambulation, and do not agree and submit to the judgment of the Synod in pursuance of said perambulation, then the said congregation from thenceforth, shall not be esteemed by this Synod as an orderly congregation, until they by testifying their repentance, give reasonable satisfaction to this Synod. And in this perambulation respect is to be had also to Mr. Boyd's congregation.

Mr. David Evans having withdrawn from the Synod three years ago, upon a protest put in by him and some other brethren, declared his hearty concern for his withdrawal, and desired to be received as a member again. And he having proposed all the scruples he had to make about any articles of the

Confession and Catechisms, &c. to the satisfaction of the Synod, and declared his adopting the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, agreeable to the last year's adopting act; he was unanimously received in as a member again; and for his ease is joined to the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Adjourned till five of the clock, *post meridiem.*

At five of the clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

Mr. John Budd and Mr. Edward Shippen, of Philadelphia; John Parry, jun'r. and James David, of Mr. David Evans's congregation; and Thomas James and Joseph Thomas of Mr. Thomas Evans's congregation, are appointed by the Synod to perambulate the bounds of Mr. Gelston's congregation, according to the above minute; and these gentlemen are to have previous and timeous notice from Mr. Gelston's congregation; which was agreed by the Synod *nemine contradicente.*

Overtured, with respect to Mrs. Catharine Wood, that she may be admitted to communion for the present, till something further appear than has yet appeared against her; which overture was approved by the Synod *nemine contradicente.*

Whereas some persons have been dissatisfied at the manner of wording our last year's agreement about the Confession, &c.; supposing some expressions not sufficiently obligatory upon intrants; overtured, that the Synod do now declare, that they understand these clauses that respect the admission of intrants or candidates in such a sense as to oblige them to receive and adopt the Confession and Catechisms at their admission in the same manner and as fully as the members of the Synod did that were then present. Which overture was unanimously agreed to by the Synod.

Thomas Caldwell's affair came under consideration, which was deferred until to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow, *ante meridiem.*

18*th day at ten o'clock.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of Thomas Caldwell reassumed, wherein he complains of the records of the Presbytery of New Castle, for charging him as a contentious person; the Synod after long debate, and hearing all that Thomas Caldwell had to advance, it was carried by a plurality of votes, that he, the said Thomas Caldwell, should acquiesce in the credentials the Presbytery of New Castle has given him.

The Synod having received a letter from New Castle on behalf of Mr. John Wilson, soliciting that something might be done to remove some misunderstandings between the congregation there and the Presbytery, respecting the conduct of that Presbytery with relation to him; this brought on a discourse about Mr. Wilson's behaviour and character, and the transactions of the Presbytery of New Castle, pursuant to the account they had of him; and the members of that Presbytery having acquainted the Synod by word and writing of their carriage towards him, the Synod do judge that, as far as things appear to us, they are not chargeable with any severity to him, but rather the contrary.

A letter from Scotland referred to the committee of overtures, to bring in an overture upon it.

Adjourned to four o'clock, *post meridiem.*

At four o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The commissioners of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

having sent over an extract of their act relating to securing the fabrick of the Presbyterian Church at New York, to the use of a Presbyterian church for ever; and having ordered Dr. Nicoll, to whom it was sent, to show the same to the Synod of their bounds, it was accordingly done; and the Synod found, by the testimony of two of the proprietors of that house, that it is secured according to the terms of their act.

Dr. John Nicoll having wrote to the Synod, about a certain parcel of communion-table linen, which Mr. Anderson has now in possession, alleging that Mrs. Burnet, that was the first owner, gave said linen to him the said Anderson, for the benefit of the church whereof he is or shall be minister; it is alleged to the contrary by Dr. Nicoll by letter. The Synod could not determine any thing in said affair, but leave it to the clearest proof.

Adjourned till to-morrow, seven o'clock, *ante meridiem.*

19th day at seven o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

A letter from the commissioners of the General Assembly of the church of Scotland to this Synod, relating to some money willed by the late Rev. Dr. Daniel Williams, for the propagating of Christian knowledge in foreign parts; the said letter was read, and much discourse passed relating thereunto; the Synod came to this resolution, that Masters Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, and Budd, deliberate and write to the commissioners of the said General Assembly, as likewise to the brethren in New England; which writing is left to the prudence of the said committee.

Agreed that the respective collections for the fund for the year ensuing, may be disposed of according to the discretion of the ministers and sessions of the several congregations, and that they give an account of what they do that way to the next Synod.

It is agreed by the Synod, that Mr. John Peter Miller, a Dutch probationer, lately come over, be left to the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia to settle him in the work of the ministry.

A letter from Mr. Robert Gordon to Masters Andrews and Cross, relating to Mr. John Wilson, read and considered; the remains of that affair not yet considered, are left to the discretion, care, and prudence of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

A supplication from Crosswick being read and considered, it is ordered that Mr. Andrews write to said people at his discretion.

A letter from the committee of a new erection at Boston, being read and considered, it was ordered that Mr. Craighead write an answer to said letter.

The Presbytery book of Philadelphia brought in and approved.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of 7br. next, at eleven of the clock, *ante merid.* and then to meet at Philadelphia a full Synod. Concluded with prayer.

1731.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 15*th,* 1731. *Post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, John Thomson, John Pierson, Samuel Gelston, William Tennent, David Evans, George Gillespie, Gilbert Tennent, Adam Boyd, Joseph Morgan, Henry Hook, Ebenezer Goold, Joseph Webb, Robert Cross, Alexander Hutchinson.

Elders: Messrs. Thomas Craig, James Montgomery, John McClenaghan, William Emmitt, James Abraham, James Kerr, Francis King, Abraham Reevs, John Richy, Peter Bushell.

Ministers absent: Messrs. James Anderson, Jonathan Dickinson, Hugh Conn, John Orme, Stevenson, Stewart, John Bradner, Pumry, Wales, Thomas Evans, Pemberton, Elmer, Houston.

Mr. Joseph Morgan was chosen moderator, and Mr. Andrews clerk.

Mr. William Tennent, the moderator of the last Synod, opened the Synod with a sermon from 1 Pet. i. 21.

Mr. Dickinson's reasons of his absence, sent by Mr. Webb, were sustained. Likewise Mr. Anderson's reasons of his absence per letter were sustained. Mr. Houston being not well, his absence was excused.

The minutes of the last Synod ordered to be read.

Masters Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Boyd, Cross, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and for any other business that the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Masters Thomson and Boyd, appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

The Presbytery book of New Castle was not brought, the clerk being absent.

Inquiry being made who had got collections for the fund, it was found that Mr. Andrews, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gillespie, and Mr. Cross, had brought collections; and that Mr. Pierson's and Mr. Webb's congregations had made collections and disposed of them for the relief of indigent places, agreeable to a vote of the last Synod. And it was earnestly recommended by the Synod to all their members, to use their diligence that the yearly collections for the fund may be duly minded, that said collections may not drop, as there seems danger that they may, in case better care be not taken than has been for some years past.

The committee for the fund appointed to meet at eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow morning.

16 *day at* 10 *o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Pumry's excuse for his absence sent by letter was sustained.

Masters Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and Gillespie, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Mr. Cross's reasons of his absence last year being minuted as not sustained, the Synod declare themselves now fully satisfied with Mr. Cross in that matter.

Inquiry being made of Mr. Robert Cross, as to his opinion relating to the Synod's agreement with reference to the Westminster Confession of Faith, &c. the said Mr. Cross did declare his hearty concurrence with what the Synod had done in that affair, and that he did accept of and adopt the said Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as the confession of his faith.

A letter of complaint brought in by Samuel Nealy against Mr. John Bradner, was deferred.

The affair relating to Mr. Gelston's meeting-house coming again before the Synod, the said affair was deferred.

The Synod received a letter from Mr. William Grant, president of the society for propagation of Christian knowledge in Scotland; and another from the reverend associated ministers of Boston, in New England, (in answer to theirs to them last Synod,) both of said letters bearing relation to the will of Dr. Daniel Williams of London, deceased, the said letters were read and ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, *post meridiem.*

At 3 o'clock P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

The affair depending between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy further delayed.

The Synod having considered the affair of Mr. Gelston's meeting-house, find that the perambulation appointed last year was not, in all respects, observed, as likewise that no damage, as appears to us, has hitherto accrued to Mr. Houston's congregation by reason of the said meeting-house standing where it is, to prevent which was the chief reason that moved the Synod to make the former act fixing the distance between the two meeting-houses, do now agree that Mr. Gelston's meeting-house shall stand where it is, without any further dispute about it.

This above minute being put to vote, approve or not, it was carried in the affirmative by a great majority.

An interloquitur of the Synod appointed to be to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

At ten o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The interloquitur was attended according to appointment.

The affair between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy was reassumed, and after long reasoning upon it, the Synod came to this conclusion: That notwithstanding a former minute of the Synod, whereby that affair was determined as things then appeared, yet they have, for sundry good reasons, judged it expedient, that there be a hearing of that matter again upon the spot; and therefore appointed a committee of the Synod to go to Goshen with the full power of the Synod to hear and determine that business. The persons appointed for said committee are Mr. Andrews, Mr. Cross, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Pierson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Pumry, and Mr. Pemberton, or any three of them, though it is expected they will all use their diligence to go. The time of meeting to be the third Wednesday of May next.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, at two o'clock, P. M., and then to meet at Philadelphia.

1732.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 20th, 1732. *Post preces sederunt*

Ministers present: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, John Pierson, William Tennent, George Gillespie, Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, Jonathan Dickinson, John Cross, Hugh Conn, John Orme, William Stewart, Eleazar Wales, Ebenezer Pemberton, Joseph Houston, Richard Treat, Robert Cathcart, William Orr, William Bertram.

Elders present: Messrs. William McMaughan, Hugh Scott, William Gray, Andrew Hamilton, John Neven, Robert Linton, Abednego Thomas, William Blair, James Donald.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Samuel Gelston, David Evans, Gilbert Tennent, Adam Boyd, Henry Hook, Ebenezer Goold, Robert Cross, Alexander Hutchinson, Hugh Stephenson, Samuel Pumry, John Bradner, Thomas Evans, Daniel Elmer, Joseph Webb, Nathaniel Hubbell.

Mr. Stewart was chosen moderator, and Mr. Dickinson clerk.

Mr. Morgan, the last moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon from Psal. cxxxviii. 2.

The Rev. Mr. William Bertram desiring admission into this Synod, and producing most ample testimonials from the Presbytery of Bangor, in Ireland, of his ordination, ministerial qualifications, and regular Christian conversation,

after his declaring his full and free assent unto the Westminster Confession and Catechisms as the confession of his faith, the Synod unanimously and cheerfully complied with his desire of admission as a member of this Synod.

The moderator and Mr. Orme not having opportunity before, either in Presbytery or Synod, did now declare their hearty assent unto the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of Westminster, adopting them as the confession of their faith.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last Synod be read.

The moderator, with Messrs. Orme, Houston, Pemberton, and Wales, offered the reasons of their absence from the Synod last year, which were sustained.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

21 *day. At* 9 *o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Webb's reasons of his absence, by Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. David Evans's reasons for his absence, sent by letter, were sustained.

Masters Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Anderson, and Dickinson, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and for any other business that the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Mr. Houston and Mr. Conn appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dickinson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

Inquiry being made who had collections for the fund, it was found that Mr. Gillespie had brought something. And it is further most earnestly recommended by the Synod to take care that the yearly collections for the fund be not forgotten, but that the respective congregations be earnestly pressed by the ministers to exercise their charity in this matter.

The committee for the fund appointed to meet at two o'clock, *post merid.*

Masters Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and Houston, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Inquiry being made of the committee appointed to go to Goshen in May last, it was found that by reason of the great progress of the small-pox on the road, and some other reasons, the appointment was not attended. It is therefore now recommended to the Presbytery of Philadelphia to take care of that affair, and pursue the most probable methods to heal the unhappy breach between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy, if that difference be not already accommodated.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M.

At four o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. John Cross having but this day been made a member of the Synod, and withdrawing to return home without acquainting the Synod therewith, is voted to be disorderly and irregular.

It being overtured by the committee of overtures, that an erection of a new Presbytery in Lancaster county, should be appointed by the Synod, it was voted by a great majority, that Masters Anderson, Thomson, Boyd, Orr, and Bertram, be members of a Presbytery by the name of Dunagall Presbytery.

The Synod for some reasons, thought fit to defer the revisal of the Presbytery books until the next year.

Voted by the Synod, *nemine contradicente,* that Mr. Orr preach to-morrow night.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, at two o'clock, P. M. and then to meet at Philadelphia.

1733.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 19*th*, 1733. *Post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, John Pierson, Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, Eleazer Wales, Joseph Houston, Richard Treat, Daniel Elmer, George Gillespie, William Tennent, Robert Cathcart, William Orr, William Bertram, Samuel Gelston, David Evans, Adam Boyd, Alexander Hutchinson, Hugh Stevenson, Thomas Evans, Benjamin Campbell, John Nutman, Gilbert Tennent.

Elders present: Messrs. William Gray, John Caldwell, Thomas Mitchell, Robert McNight, James Abraham, Thomas Rees, James Young, Benjamin Jones, William Bateman, John Kirkpatrick, Robert Boyd, William Stinson, Alexander White, Abraham Kitchell, Robert Jameson, George Renocks, James Wallace.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, John Cross, Hugh Conn, John Orme, William Stewart, Ebenezer Pemberton, Henry Hook, Ebenezer Goold, Robert Cross, Samuel Pumry, Joseph Webb, Nathaniel Hubbell.

Mr. Stewart, the last year's moderator, being absent through indisposition, Mr. Thomson opened the Synod with a sermon from Jer. xvii. 9.

The roll being called over it was found that the Rev. Mr. John Bradner was dead since our last Synod.

Mr. Joseph Houston was chosen moderator, and Mr. Thomas Evans clerk.

Messrs. Stewart, Webb, and Hook, sent letters to excuse their absence, which were approven. And upon the representation made by Mr. Treat and others, of the reasons of the absence of Mr. John Cross, he was excused for his absence this year. The reasons of the absence of Mr. Robert Cross, sent by letter, not being satisfactory, the consideration of his absence both last year and this, were deferred till our next.

Ordered, That our last year's minutes be read.

Masters Boyd, Hutchinson, Stevenson, Gilbert Tennent, Gelston, Elmer, and Thomas Evans, gave the reasons of their absence last year, which were sustained.

Masters Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Anderson, Boyd, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any business that the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Masters Gillespie and Hutchinson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

The Presbytery books of New Castle and Dunagall being absent, Ordered, That they be brought at our next Synod.

Ordered, That the committee meet at eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock to-morrow morning.

20*th day, at ten o'clock, ante meridiem, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that Masters Thomson, Anderson, Gillespie, Boyd, and Thomas Evans, had brought something. And it being found that most of our members had neglected in times past to bring collections, it was ordered, that every member of the Synod do use their endeavours with their respective congregations, to bring collections yearly to the fund, and that in order to their greater success, every member who hath not yet had a copy of the Synod's letter relating to that affair, shall not fail to procure one, and improve it with their respective congregations and sessions, according to the design thereof.

Ordered, That the commission of the Synod bring in an account of their management with respect to the fund, at our next *sederunt*.

Masters Andrews, Anderson, Gillespie, Robert Cross, Dickinson, Pierson,

Craighead, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Inquiry being made of the difference between Mr. Bradner and Samuel Nealy, it was reported that some time before Mr. Bradner's death the breach between them was made up; the said Nealy submitting to the Synod's determination.

The further consideration of Mr. John Cross his withdrawing from the Synod last year, deferred to our next.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The commission of the Synod for last year brought in an account of their management with respect to the fund, which being read was approved.

Upon a supplication of the people of Trenton, presented to the Synod by the committee of the Synod, it was recommended by said committee, that the commission of the Synod do allow something out of the fund to Trenton, as to them shall appear needful, when they are settled with a minister; which overture being read was approved by the Synod, *nemine contradicente.*

The affair of Hanover coming under consideration, and many papers being read to give light to the Synod in that affair, it was agreed that the committee bring in an overture on said business at our next *sederunt.*

Ordered, That the committee meet at eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock to-morrow morning.

21 *day, at ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of our last *sederunt* be read.

The committee having spent much time in reasoning on the affair of Hanover committed to them, at length agreed upon an overture on it in the following articles, viz.

First, That the Synod look upon the practice of submitting of congregational affairs to the decision of a lot, though accompanied with sacred solemnity, to be unwarrantable, inasmuch as lots are only warrantably used to decide matters that can't be otherwise determined in a rational way; particularly by applying to higher judicatories.

Secondly, The Synod do think that in their present circumstances of poverty and weakness, it might be very advisable for the people of West Hanover, at least for some time, to join themselves with the congregations of East Hanover, and Basking Ridge, as may be most convenient, until they, as well as the said neighbouring congregations, be more able to subsist of themselves separately. Yet in the mean time, as the case now stands with that people, if re-union between East and West Hanover be found impracticable, according to our above advice, the Synod judge that the people of West Hanover be left to their liberty to erect themselves into a separate congregation. Withal we earnestly obtest and beseech, that nothing be done in that affair that may have a tendency to hurt the interest of religion in those places, so far as in them lies.

The above overture being read, was approven by a great majority of votes.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M.

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

Mr. Andrews having made a motion to the committee of overtures, that an assistant be allowed unto him in the work of the ministry in this city; and the committee after discoursing upon it, having recommended the consideration thereof to the Synod, upon this proviso, that if the said motion be allowed or

approved, there be first a sufficient provision made for an honourable maintenance of Mr. Andrews, during his continuance among this people; the Synod entered upon the consideration of said motion, and after considerable discourse upon it, it was put to the vote, whether Mr. Andrews should be allowed to have an assistant, if first sufficient provision be made for his honourable maintenance during his life among them, and it was carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente.*

It is further Ordered, by the Synod, That the committee of overtures meet this evening, and consult about what may be necessary to prepare a way for putting the said motion into execution, as well as to prepare other business for the Synod.

The committee ordered to meet at eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

22 *day. At ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The committee reported that the affair of Mr. Andrews's motion for an assistant is yet under consideration.

Upon an overture to the Synod in pursuance of an order of the committee to that purpose, viz. to use some proper means to revive the declining power of godliness, the Synod do earnestly recommend it to all our ministers and members, to take particular care about ministerial visiting of families, and press family and secret worship, according to the Westminster Directory, and that they also recommend it to every Presbytery, at proper seasons to inquire concerning the diligence of each of their members in such particulars.

This overture was approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Ordered, That each Presbytery take a copy of said overture, together with this order, and insert the same in their Presbytery books.

Upon an overture of the committee to the Synod, concerning a representation of Mr. Hugh Stevenson, respecting harsh and injurious usage which he met with from some gentlemen in Virginia, the Synod ordered Mr. Stevenson to lay a representation thereof before them, which he accordingly did in writing. And after hearing the same, and reasoning upon it, it was agreed that a letter be writ by the Synod, and sent to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, together with a copy of Mr. Stevenson's representation, in order to use our interest with that venerable Assembly for our being assisted with money from the societies for the propagation of religion, or elsewhere to enable us to maintain some itinerant ministers in Virginia or elsewhere; as also to procure their assistance to obtain the favourable notice of the government in England, so as to lay a restraint upon some gentlemen in said neighbouring province, as may discourage them from hampering such itinerant ministers by illegal prosecutions; and if it may be, to procure some assistance from his majesty for our encouragement by way of *regium donum.*

Ordered, That Masers Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, and Stevenson, write the above letter, and bring it into the Synod to be approved on Monday morning.

Ordered, That the committee meet at eight of the clock on Monday morning.

Adjourned till ten o'clock on Monday morning.

24*th day, at ten of the clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

An overture being brought in from the committee of overtures about the ascertaining Mr. Andrews his maintenance, in case of an assistant, the Synod had long discourse about the whole affair, and also had conference with some

gentlemen members of this congregation, and at last agreed upon the following conclusion.

First, That the congregation be allowed to call an assistant to Mr. Andrews.

Secondly, That in order to secure Mr. Andrews's maintenance, those gentlemen who have expressed a desire of an assistant, shall not diminish, but rather strive, and as much as may be, increase their own subscriptions to him on their part; neither shall they endeavour to alienate any of the present subscription of the congregation from Mr. Andrews. And inasmuch as the present subscription appears scanty, that all care shall be taken to get new subscriptions to Mr. Andrews.

Thirdly, That he shall also have all the monthly collections.

This was agreed to, *nemine contradicente.*

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M.

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered that the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

An overture from the committee upon a motion of a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, that the said Presbytery be divided into two Presbyteries. The Synod approved of the said motion, and it is agreed that Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Morgan, Evans, William Tennent, Treat, Elmer, Goold, and Wales, be members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and that the rest of the members now in said Presbytery be the Presbytery of East Jersey

Overtured, That something be allowed to the congregations of Baskingridge and Perth-Amboy, in pursuance of their applications for that purpose, in order to assist them in defraying the charges of their meeting-houses. And also something to a student. All which was referred to the committee of the fund.

Overtured, That something be allowed out of the fund to three ministers' widows, which was also referred to the committee of the fund.

Mr. Nutman representing to the Synod, the great difficulties he is fallen under, as to his continuing pastor of the congregation of East-Hanover, by reason of the division and discord between them and the people of West-Hanover; they, viz: of West-Hanover being allowed by this Synod, to erect themselves into a separate congregation, (in case, as per minutes of the Synod,) the Synod considering the same, do earnestly recommend it to the Presbytery of East-New-Jersey to travail with the people of West Hanover and East-Hanover, in order to prevail with them to agree upon conditions of reunion, at least for a while, until they be better able to subsist apart. But if the Presbytery's endeavours to this purpose should not have effect, it is this Synod's judgment, that a dismission may be granted to Mr. Nutman from the people of East-Hanover, by the said Presbytery, upon his application for the same.

Masters Andrews, Thomson, Anderson, and Stevenson, brought in the letter to be sent to the General Assembly of Scotland, which was approved of.

Ordered, That two copies of our letter from this Synod to the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, be sent as per minutes, and that Mr. Andrews is appointed to write and send one, and Mr. Stevenson the other.

Ordered, That a particular account of the state of the fund be prepared by the commission of the Synod, in order to bring it in to our Synod next year, to be inserted in our minutes.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of September next, at two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1734.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 18*th*, 1734. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, John Pierson, Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, Eleazar Wales, Joseph Houston, Richard Treat, Daniel Elmer, William Tennent, Robert Cathcart, William Orr, David Evans, Adam Boyd, Benjamin Campbell, Samuel Hemphill, John Nutman, Gilbert Tennent, Jonathan Dickinson, John Cross, Ebenezer Pemberton, Robert Cross, Samuel Pumry, Joseph Webb, Andrew Archbold, James Martin, Robert Jamison, George Gillespie, Henry Hook, Alexander Hutchinson, Ebenezer Goold.

Elders: Messrs. William Gray, Andrew Hamilton, Alexander McNight, Robert Ingliss, James Smith, Charles Hufty, William Ramsey, William Blair, David Patterson, James Abraham, James Cochran, Benjamin Beech, Matthias Hatfield, Elias Bailies, Adam Renkin.

Mr. Ebenezer Pemberton was chosen moderator, and Mr. Daniel Elmer clerk.

Mr. Houston, last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Matt. v. 16.

Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Craighead, Anderson, Boyd, Gillespie, Dickinson, and Robert Cross, appointed a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to meet at eight of the clock.

19 *day, at ten o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The last year's minutes appointed to be read.

Ministers absent: Masters Bertram, Hugh Stevenson, Thomas Evans, Hugh Conn, John Orme, William Stewart, Nathaniel Hubbell.

Mr. Bertram sent reasons of his absence, which were sustained. Messrs. Pemberton, Dickinson, and Robert Cross, gave the reasons of their absence last year, which were sustained.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Nutman appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle. Messrs. Orr and Campbell, to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia. Messrs. Houston and Pumry, to revise the Presbytery book of East Jersey.

The order with respect to the bringing the Presbytery book of Dunagall, that was made last year, is renewed now.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections from their respective congregations to the fund, it was found that Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Pierson, Anderson, Houston, Treat, William Tennent, Cathcart, Orr, Evans, Boyd, Webb, and Hutchinson, had brought something.

Masters Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, Gillespie, Robert Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Craighead, and the moderator, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Mr. John Cross having given the reasons of his withdrawing from the Synod without liberty, the year before last, acknowledged the disorder thereof, which acknowledgment was accepted by the Synod.

Inquiry being made with respect to the overture made last Synod, in order to revive the decaying power of godliness; and it being found that it has not yet been fully put into execution, the Synod do not only renew the said order, but earnestly obtest every of our brethren of the ministry, conscientiously and diligently to pursue the good designs thereof.

Ordered, That the last year's minutes with relation to Mr. Nutman and the people of Hanover, be further considered.

Ordered, That the account of the state of the fund be brought in the next *sederunt*.

Ordered, That the committee meet at three o'clock, P. M.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M.

At four o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

The affair of Mr. Nutman and Hanover continued.

The consideration of the state of the fund continued.

Adjourned to ten o'clock, to-morrow morning.

20 *day, at ten o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of Mr. Nutman further continued. The consideration of the state of the fund further continued.

There being a petition from the people of Smithbury, that they may be put under the Presbytery of East Jersey, the Synod complied with the said petition, and appointed that they belong accordingly to the said Presbytery.

The affair of Mr. Cross's transportation from Jamaica to Philadelphia came under consideration, and accordingly the minutes of the commission of the Synod, and of the committee appointed by the commission relating to that affair being read, and the commissioners from Philadelphia and Jamaica being heard at length, as to their reasons and arguments pro and con; as also Mr. Cross having declared himself upon that affair, wherein he devolved himself wholly upon the determination of the Synod; and several brethren having proposed queries in reference to the several arguments *pro* and *con*, in order to greater light; the Synod defer the further consideration of the whole affair until the next *sederunt*.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of Mr. Nutman continued. The affair of the fund also continued.

The affair of Mr. Cross's transportation from Jamaica to Philadelphia, came again under consideration. Upon which it was proposed by a member of the Synod, that inasmuch as it is suggested that there are not a few of this congregation who desire not Mr. Cross's transportation to Philadelphia; and that this congregation may not be cut out of the right that they have, according to our Presbyterian constitution, to offer their objections; the Synod by a great majority of votes agreed that this affair be deferred until to-morrow morning, and that public advertisement be given this evening to this congregation, that if there be any of this congregation, who have any thing to object against Mr. Cross's being settled here at Philadelphia, they may appear and offer what they have to say upon this affair, that the Synod may judge thereof before they proceed to determine this momentous affair by vote.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning.

21 *day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

The affairs of Mr. Nutman and the fund yet continued.

Some overtures brought in by Mr. Gilbert Tennent, deferred.

The affair respecting Mr. Cross's transportation from Jamaica to Philadelphia reassumed. And the Synod being deeply sensible of the great importance of the present debate, appointed that a solemn prayer to God for

assistance and direction be made before we enter upon the consideration of it, and another prayer before we proceed to a vote, which were accordingly done; and after the most critical examination of the affair, and the solemn imploring the divine assistance, the matter was put to vote, and carried against Mr. Cross's transportation.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M.

At four o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

Mr. Nutman's affair still continued; and the affair of the fund continued; and the affair of Mr. Gilbert Tennent, respecting the overtures brought in by him, continued till Monday, P. M.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Hemphill, being recommended by the Presbytery of Straban, in Ireland, to all their reverend brethren, where the providence of God shall call him, and he also bringing ample and satisfactory certificates from the same Presbytery, of his qualifications for and ordination to the sacred ministry, he is, upon his desire, admitted a member of this Synod, and recommended to the regards and assistance of whichsoever of our Presbyteries his abode shall be fixed among.

An appeal being brought in by Masters John Kirkpatrick and John Moor, from the Presbytery of Dunagall, the Synod appointed that Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, William Tennent, Richard Treat, Alexander Hutchinson, George Gillespie, Thomas Evans, and Henry Hook, be a committee to meet at Nottingham on the first Wednesday of November next, to hear the said appeal, and to determine it by the authority of the Synod, they bringing an account of their transactions therein to the next Synod. And the Synod do also empower the said committee to hear any matter *de novo*, that shall be brought before them by the said John Kirkpatrick and John Moor, with relation to the affair aforesaid, and authoritatively determine thereupon; appointing also, that if either party do appeal from the determination of the said committee, they shall enter their appeal immediately, that it may be finally determined by the next Synod.

Adjourned to Monday at ten o'clock, A. M.

23 *day, at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of the fund yet continued.

Ordered, That Messrs. Anderson, Thomson, Dickinson, and Cross, draw up an overture upon Mr. Gilbert Tennent's overtures, to be presented to the Synod to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the Synod make a particular inquiry during the time of their meeting every year, whether such ministers as have been received as members since the foregoing meeting of the Synod, have adopted, or have been required by the Synod, or by the respective Presbyteries, to adopt the Westminster Confession and Catechisms with the Directory, according to the acts of the Synod made some years since for that purpose, and that also the report made to the Synod in answer to said inquiry, be recorded in our minutes.

Mr. Samuel Pumry, Mr. James Martin, Mr. Robert Jamison, and Mr. Samuel Hemphill, declared for, and adopted, the Westminster Confession, Catechisms, and Directory commonly annexed, the former as the confession of their faith, and the latter as the guide of their practice in matters of discipline, as far as may be agreeable to the rules of prudence, &c. as in the adopting acts of this Synod is directed.

Pursuant to act of Synod, found upon inquiry that Mr. William Tennent, junior, Mr. Andrew Archbold ordained, and Mr. Samuel Blair licensed, did

each and every of them declare their assent and consent to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, and Directory annexed, according to the intent of the act of Synod in that case made and provided.

Resolved, That the affair of Mr. Nutman, from time to time continued, be first considered the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of the fund continued.

Ordered, That Mr. Robert Cross, and the moderator, as soon as leisure will permit, do write a letter to Col. Ogden, in return to his to the Synod bearing date September 16, 1734.

The affair of Mr. Nutman and the people of Hanover resumed, and after reading our last year's minutes, and Mr. Dickinson proposing a difficulty concerning the obligation of the determination by the lot mentioned in said minutes, whether the obligation of the said determination yet remains binding upon said people, the Synod after much discourse and reasoning about that matter, at length came to a judgment in the following propositions.

1. That the Synod look upon the obligation of a determination of a difference by a lot, to be sacred and binding upon the conscience, if the matter so determined be lawful and practicable, and consequently to act contrary thereunto must be a very great sin.

2. That as the foundation upon which a lot is cast may cease, and the practicableness of acting according to the determination thereof may, in time, cease also, (though for a time it may continue practicable,) in such a case we judge that the obligation thereof doth cease also, because it can never be designed that such an obligation should remain after the design thereof becomes either impossible, or hath been fully obtained.

3. Our determination last year relating to the people of Hanover, did wholly go upon this supposition, that the affairs of that people and their circumstances were so far altered, upon representations then made to us, that we supposed the foundation of said lot, and of the people's acting upon it were ceased, which, whether it be certainly so or not, we do not peremptorily determine, but leave parties to judge thereof as in conscience they can.

4. That however, as in our minutes last Synod, we disapprove of the use of lots, without necessity, yet we are afraid, upon representation, that there hath been much sin committed by many if not all that people, in their profane disregard of said lot in time past, and therefore excite them to reflect upon their past practices in reference thereunto, in order to their repentance.

Adjourned till nine of the clock to-morrow morning.

24 *day. At nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The affair of the fund continued.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent having brought some overtures into the Synod with respect to the trials of candidates, both for the ministry and the Lord's Supper, that there be due care taken in examining into the evidences of the grace of God in them, as well as of their other necessary qualifications, the Synod doth unanimously agree, that as it has been our principle and practice, and as it is recommended in the Directory for worship and government, to be careful in this matter, so it awfully concerns us to be most serious and solemn in the trials of both sorts of candidates above mentioned. And this Synod does therefore in the name and fear of God, exhort and obtest all our Presbyteries to take special care not to admit into the sacred office, loose, careless, and irreli-

gious persons, but that they particularly inquire into the conversations, conduct, and behaviour of such as offer themselves to the ministry, and that they diligently examine all the candidates for the ministry in their experiences of a work of sanctifying grace in their hearts, and that they admit none to the sacred trust that are not in the eye of charity serious Christians. And the Synod does also seriously and solemnly admonish all the ministers within our bounds to make it their awful, constant, and diligent care, to approve themselves to God, to their own consciences, and to their hearers, serious, faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, and of holy and exemplary conversations. And the Synod does also exhort all the ministers within our bounds to use due care in examining those they admit to the Lord's Supper.

This admonition was approved by the whole Synod.

And the Synod does further recommend unanimously, to all our Presbyteries, to take effectual care that each of their ministers are faithful in the discharge of their awful trust. And in particular, that they frequently examine, with respect to each of their members, into their life and conversation, their diligence in their work, and their methods of discharging their ministerial calling. Particularly that each Presbytery do, at least once a year, examine into the manner of each minister's preaching, whether he insist in his ministry upon the great articles of Christianity, and in the course of his preaching recommend a crucified Saviour to his hearers as the only foundation of hope, and the absolute necessity of the omnipotent influences of the Divine grace to enable them to accept of this Saviour; whether he do in the most solemn and affecting manner he can, endeavour to convince his hearers of their lost and miserable state whilst unconverted, and put them upon the diligent use of those means necessary in order to obtaining the sanctifying influences of the Spirit of God; whether he do, and how he doth, discharge his duty towards the young people and children of his congregation, in a way of catechizing and familiar instruction; whether he do, and in what manner he doth, visit his flock and instruct them from house to house.

And the Synod hereby orders, that a copy of this minute be inserted into the books of each of our Presbyteries, and be read at every of their Presbyterial meetings, and a record of its being read minuted in said books at the beginning of every session, and that there be also an annual record in each Presbytery book of a correspondence with this minute.

And in case any minister within our bounds shall be found defective in any of the abovementioned cases, he shall be subject to the censure of the Presbytery, and if he refuse subjection to such censure, the Presbytery are hereby directed to represent his case to the next Synod. And the Synod recommends to each of the ministers within our bounds to be as much in catechetical doctrines as they in prudence may think proper.

The Synod determines that no minister of our persuasion, in the government of Pennsylvania, and the lower counties, from this time forward, marry by any license from the governor, till the form of them be altered and brought to a nearer conformity to those of the neighbouring governments of New York and New Jersey; and particularly till they are altered in such a manner as hath no peculiar respect to the ministers of the Church of England, nor oblige us to any of the forms and ceremonies peculiar to that church; and do further agree to refer it to the Presbyteries of New Castle and Donegall conjunctly to make what regulations they see cause for upon the affair of licenses with respect to their own members.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

An account of the fund being brought in, it appears that October the 22d,

1733, the sum total amounted to five hundred and seven pounds, sixteen shillings and ten pence.

A reference being made by the Presbytery of New Castle to the Synod concerning Mr. Gelston's suspension, upon the account of drunkenness and some other crimes, the Synod finding Mr. Gelston to be absent, and seeing no reason to take off the suspension, do continue it till our next Synod.

The Presbytery books of Philadelphia, New Castle, and East Jersey, were brought in and approved.

Ordered, That each Presbytery have a copy of these minutes, and of all the minutes of the Synod annually, for the time to come, and that the clerk be satisfied for writing the said copies out of the fund.

Ordered, That the commission of the Synod do take care of the fund.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of September next, at two o'clock, P. M., and then to meet at Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1735.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia,

September 17*th*, 1735. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, Joseph Morgan, James Anderson, Eleazer Wales, Joseph Houston, Richard Treat, Daniel Elmer, Robert Cathcart, David Evans, Adam Boyd, Jonathan Dickinson, John Cross, George Gillespie, Alexander Hutchinson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Robert Cross, Joseph Webb, Samuel Blair, Andrew Archbold, Robert Jamison, Ebenezer Goold, Thomas Evans, Hugh Stevenson, John Orme, Isaac Chalker, Hugh Carlisle, James Martin.

Elders: Messrs. James Galt, William Gray, William Whiteside, Andrew Galbaith, John Latham, Nathaniel Britain, James Bravarb, Ephraim Logue, David Griffith, Samuel Jack, Asa Gildersheve, William McMachin, Samuel James, John Smith, Joseph Steel, William Bratten.

Ministers absent: Messrs. John Pierson, William Tennent, William Orr, John Nutman, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, junior, Samuel Pumry, Simon Horton, Henry Hook, William Bertram, Hugh Conn, Nathaniel Hubbel.

Mr. Robert Cross was chosen moderator, and Mr. Richard Treat clerk.

Mr. Pemberton, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon on John xii. 26.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning.

18 *day, at nine of the clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

Messrs. Pierson, Nutman, Conn, and Bertram, sent reasons of their absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That the last year's minutes be read.

Upon calling over the roll it was found that Messrs. Stewart and Campbell are dead since our last Synod.

Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Craighead, Anderson, Boyd, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

Messrs. Thomas Evans, Orme, and Stevenson, gave the reasons of their absence last year, which were sustained.

Messrs. Pemberton and Dickinson appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia, and Messrs. Stevenson and Martin the Presbytery book of Donegall.

The Presbytery books of New Castle and East Jersey not being brought are ordered to be brought next Synod.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections to the fund, it was found

that Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Anderson, David Evans, Boyd, Dickinson, Webb, Thomas Evans, Gillespie, and Pierson, had got some.

Messrs. Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Craighead, Thomas Evans, and the moderator, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Whereas the commission of the Synod did meet some time in April last. Ordered, That an account of their proceedings be brought in after we have finished the reading of the last year's minutes.*

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* The committee met at Nottingham, according to appointment of the last Synod, and happily accommodated their differences, whose conduct was approved by the Synod, and the account of the whole of this proceeding ordered to be recorded in the Synod book, both minutes and articles of agreement, which was as followeth, viz.

First, the minutes.

At a meeting of the committee appointed by the last Synod to meet at Nottingham, on Wednesday, the 6th day of November, 1734, to settle some differences that had arisen there, *ubi post preces sederunt* Mr. George Gillespie, Mr. Alexander Hutchinson, Mr. Thomas Evans, Mr. Richard Treat, and Mr. Jedidiah Andrews.

Two of the members that were appointed, namely Mr. William Tennent, and Mr. Henry Hook, were absent.

Mr. Andrews was chosen moderator, and Mr. Evans clerk.

Ordered, That the minutes of the Synod relating to the affair now depending, should be read, which was accordingly done.

John Kirkpatrick being called, produced several papers relating to the matter of difference between him and Mr. Orr, which were read, as also the minutes of the Donegall Presbytery relating to the said affair, and the committee after just entering upon the affair, finding things too tedious to finish any thing this evening, defer the consideration of the whole till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine of the clock to-morrow morning.

7th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The matter of difference between John Kirkpatrick and Mr. Orr being reassumed, and the stated members of Donegall Presbytery being interrogated about their present sentiments, whether, upon a review, and more mature deliberation on said affair, they stood upon a vindication of the whole of their judgment, they did all of them candidly declare their mistake or error in two particulars. 1. In their not hearing and discussing John Kirkpatrick's supplication as they should have done, which they judge might hurt the whole affair. 2. In not giving him copies of some papers as he desired, which omissions they say, were much owing to the want of time, and the disturbance things were in among the people.

The committee in an interloquitur, in order to shorten matters, agreed to advise both parties to try to moderate the differences among them, by choosing two indifferent persons on each side to labour in the affair, which was done, and the whole afternoon was spent in it.

Adjourned to nine of the clock to-morrow morning.

8th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee inquired whether any thing was done by the persons that were chosen by each party, in order to an accommodation, and found that they had drawn up certain articles, which they thought reasonable for all parties to agree in, which, after much pains and diligence used by said persons, were consented unto publicly, by all parties, and were approved of by the committee, unto the great joy and satisfaction of all concerned.

On occasion of a motion made by one of the members, the committee thought fit to declare, that though they utterly dislike a captious, querulous frame of spirit and carriage in any person or people, with respect to ministers and their preaching, yet they hold that people have the privilege of a judgment of discretion upon what they hear in the public ministry; which privilege we judge notwithstanding should be prudently and soberly used, with regard to God's glory and the edification of his Church and people.

And whereas, some things have been uttered by Mr. Orr in his public ministry, which have been thought by some, not so well guarded as they should have been, upon an im-

Inquiry being made, according to the order of last Synod, whether those admitted into any of our Presbyteries since last Synod have adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, &c. according to the adopting act of the Synod, it was reported, that Messrs. Isaac Chalker, Simon Horton, and Samuel Blair, ordained by the Presbytery of East Jersey, and Mr. Hugh Carlisle, admitted into New Castle Presbytery, have done it in the several Presbyteries according to the order aforesaid. And Messrs. Isaac Chalker

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portant point of divinity, the committee does, in true brotherly Christian affection, recommend it to Mr. Orr, to be watchful and careful how he express himself on such momentous doctrines for the future, that all occasion of exception may be evaded.

Whereas John Kirkpatrick, Hugh Kirkpatrick, John Moor, and John Smith, represented to the committee that they laboured under some difficulty with respect to an obligation wherein they stand bound to make good Mr. Orr's maintenance, from which, in order to preserve the present peace among them, they desire to be released, the committee recommended it to the congregation to get new bondsmen, and release the said persons from the said obligation.

It being also represented by John Kirkpatrick and John Moor, that they are difficulted about a bond they stand bound in, for building the meeting-house, which should have been paid before now, and for which they are in fear of being troubled, the committee recommend it to the members of the congregation to take care to pay off said bond as soon as possible may be. Concluded with prayer.

Secondly, the articles of agreement.

Nottingham, 9br. 7th. 1734.

Whereas it is this day recommended by the Reverend Committee to the contending parties, that they choose, each party, two persons to assist them to come to terms of agreement, in order to put an end to the present tedious controversy in a way of mutual concession and acknowledgment to each other, we, the persons chosen by the parties for this purpose, having considered the proposals made by both parties to each other, have agreed to make the following proposals to both parties, to be by them acquiesced in and assented unto, otherwise the matter to be remitted to the cognisance of the committee, as if no such proposals had been made.

Imprimis. That Mr. Orr acknowledge, that inasmuch as by reason of his natural temper, he is something liable to act with an appearance of too great an air of imperiousness, so in some of his managements in the session, he might be faulty in that respect, and is sorry if any thing of this kind hath given offence to John Kirkpatrick and adherents, and resolves to guard against any thing of that nature for the future.

2. That Mr. Orr and the session do acknowledge, that they acted with too much lenity towards William Edmeston, considering the circumstances of his sins, and resolve to act with more exact severity for the future.

3. That the congregation acknowledge, that the method they took to deal with John Kirkpatrick, &c. in subscribing such a paper containing such accusations against him of lies, which were not proven, and also the bitter satirical style in which it was written, was faulty and unjustifiable, and that they are heartily sorry for their so doing, and resolve never to be guilty of the like again.

4. That William McGill be restored to church privileges, without inquiring into the justice or injustice of his past censure.

5. That John Kirkpatrick, and all his adherents, be restored to their former gospel privileges, so far as is agreeable to gospel rules.

6. That the substance of all the acknowledgment made by the members of this Presbytery be recorded in the Presbytery book.

7. That John Kirkpatrick and his adherents acknowledge their rash and imprudent manner of discoursing of Mr. Orr's doctrine, representing it as false and erroneous, and likewise their abrupt and irregular breaking off from the session.

8. That if these articles be acquiesced in by both parties, that they also resolve and promise, mutually to each other, industriously for the future to take care not to repeat past matters of controversy, but bury all in oblivion, and endeavour by all proper means to assist and cultivate true Christian charity and affection.

Lastly. That if these articles are agreed to, the same shall be published before the committee, and the several parties shall publicly declare their acquiescence in them; and after all, the contents hereof be recorded in the Presbytery book.

Thus of the business of Nottingham.

and Hugh Carlisle not having seen the adopting act, have now had the same read to them, and do now concur in their assent to the terms of the adopting act.

Ordered, That each Presbytery have the whole adopting act inserted in their Presbytery book.

Messrs. Pemberton and Cross did write to Col. Ogden, according to order of last year, and he not being yet satisfied, and the case being further opened by Mr. Webb, the Synod order Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Pemberton to bring in a letter for the Synod's approbation to be sent to him.

Adjourned till three of the clock, *post merid.* Concluded with prayer.

At three of the clock, post merid. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The minutes of the last year not being yet finished, ordered to go on with the reading of them.

There having been a complaint made by some members of the Presbytery of East Jersey, that the Presbytery are incapable to comply with the excellent design of the act of the last Synod, with respect to the trials of candidates for the ministry, and of the fidelity of their own members in the discharge of their ministerial trust, by reason that several of their members, and Mr. John Cross in particular, neglect to attend the stated meetings of Presbytery, and that Mr. John Cross has, without the concurrence of the Presbytery, removed from one congregation to another: The Synod do declare that the conduct of such ministers that do neglect attendance upon the meetings of the Presbytery without necessity, or that take the charge of any congregation without the Presbytery's concurrence, to be disorderly and justly worthy of Presbyterial censure, and do admonish said Mr. Cross, to be no further chargeable with such irregularities for the future.

The Synod esteeming the act of last year with respect to the trial of candidates for the ministry, and examining into the methods of our ministers' discharge of their awful trust, to be of greatest moment and importance, do, in the strongest manner, exhort each Presbytery to an exact compliance with the said act in all the parts of it. And do also exhort all the ministers within our bounds, to take due care in the examination of all candidates for baptism, or that offer to dedicate their children to God in that sacred ordinance, that they are persons of a regular life, and have suitable acquaintance with the principles of the Christian religion; that that seal be not set to a blank, and that such be not admitted to visible church relation that are manifestly unfit for it.

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning.

19 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

Upon reading last year's minutes relating to marriages by licenses, it is supposed there may be some exempt instances wherein the restraints of that act may be found too severe. The Synod therefore order, that each particular Presbytery shall have full liberty to determine upon, and direct in such exempt cases as they shall think convenient; provided always, that no minister within our bounds shall be allowed to marry by license any members of our established congregations, or others known to be of our communion, without certificates from the minister of such congregation; or in case of the absence of the minister, or of the congregation being without a minister, from some other substantial persons, that such marriage is regular, and that there is no just bar in the way of it. And the Synod do recommend it to all their members that shall be exempted by their Presbyteries and allowed to marry

by licenses, to use the greatest caution that they do not countenance any clandestine marriages, and especially that they do not marry any that they have reason to suspect to go contrary to the minds of their parents and guardians in seeking it.

Ordered, That the account of the fund be brought in before the conclusion of this Synod.

The affair of Mr. Gelston's suspension coming under consideration, and there being not time enough to issue it at present, the further consideration of it deferred till our next *sederunt*.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

The affair of Mr. Gelston reassumed; and the Synod having with all seriousness considered the affair of Mr. Gelston, who has for some time past been under suspension by the Presbytery of New Castle, which was the last year continued by the Synod; they observe to their great sorrow, that since his suspension there are various and loud reports of his scandalous behaviour in the High-Lands of New York, which we have too much reason to fear there is some foundation for; we cannot, therefore, at present consent to the restoring him to the exercise of his ministry, but are obliged to continue his suspension. In the mean time we appoint that they that shall be ordered to attend upon the ordination of Mr. Tudor of Goshen, do inquire into the truth of these reports that have been spread abroad with respect to Mr. Gelston's conduct in these parts, and to inform the Presbyteries of New Castle and Donegall conjunctly, who shall have a discretionary power to restore Mr. Gelston if these reports are found false, and Mr. Gelston give them good evidence of sincere repentance; otherwise to continue his suspension till the next Synod; and that the persons appointed give Mr. Gelston suitable warning of the time of their meeting at Goshen, that he may be present if he sees cause. Approved *nemine contradicente.*

Adjourned to nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered that the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

The reading of the minutes of the last year being finished, the Synod do, according to a foregoing order, enter upon the consideration of the proceedings of the commission last April, and order that the account of their proceedings be laid before them; which was done.

The further consideration of the affair of the commission deferred till Monday morning. And it is ordered, that Mr. Hemphill be notified to appear then before them if he sees cause, or has any thing to offer unto them.

A supplication being brought into the Synod from the people of Goshen, and also a letter from Mr. Tudor, a candidate of the ministry there, both signifying that he is ready to adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith, &c., and to submit to Presbyterian rules; and also desiring that the Synod would, as soon as possibly may be, send a committee to said place to attend the ordination of Mr. Tudor there: The Synod do accordingly appoint Mr. Robert Cross, Mr. Pumry, Mr. Webb, Mr. Nutman, Mr. John Cross, and Mr. Chalker, to meet at Goshen the last Wednesday of the next month, October, to attend said ordination, and Mr. Robert Cross to preside in said affair. And the Synod do further appoint for the trials of Mr. Tudor, that he make an exegesis in Latin upon that question, *an lex naturæ sit sufficiens ad salutem?* and that he preach a popular sermon upon Rom. xi. 6. And the Synod do

order that the congregation be publicly notified of the appointment, by reading this minute to them on the preceding Lord's day, that if any persons have any thing to object against said proceeding, they may be prepared to lay it before the committee.

Ordered, That the committee of the Synod meet at three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to ten of the clock, Monday morning.

22d day at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last *sederunt* be read.

Upon calling over the roll, it being found that many of the elders have gone home without leaving any reasons for their so doing; the Synod do order, that such elders as do withdraw from the Synod without leave, shall be left to the censure of their sessions, and report made thereof to the next Synod. And the Synod do recommend it to the several congregations to defray the necessary charges that their elders be at during their attendance upon the Synod.

The affair of the commission reassumed.

The Synod having notified Mr. Hemphill, that they intend this day to enter upon his affair, and he not appearing but sending a disrespectful and contemptuous letter in the following words:

"To the Rev. members of the Synod:

"By way of answer to the notification which I received Saturday last, I have only to observe, that the dispute between the Synod and me being made public in the world, which was first begun by the commission, what I have at present to offer to the Synod, is contained in an answer to the vindication of the reverend commission now in the press, and will be speedily published, and that I despise the Synod's claim of authority. Your humble servant,

"SAMUEL HEMPHILL.

"*Monday morning.*

"P. S. I shall think you will do me a deal of honour, if you entirely excommunicate me."

The Synod, from the consideration of his contumacy in his errors, his disregard of the censure of the commission, and rejecting our communion, do declare him unqualified for any future exercise of his ministry within our bounds, and that this be intimated to all our congregations by each respective minister. Approved *nemine contradicente.*

The brethren appointed to justify the commission against any complaints from Mr. Hemphill, if he should publish any such, having complied with the commission's order in that matter, are desired by the Synod to continue to answer any further publications of Mr. Hemphill's or his friends in that cause, if they shall think it necessary. And it is ordered, that the charge of it shall be defrayed out of the fund.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the last *sederunt* ordered to be read.

An overture being brought into the Synod from Mr. Hook, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Jamison, and Mr. Martin, desiring that they might be set off from New Castle Presbytery and erected into a Presbytery of themselves; the Synod do agree that they become a Presbytery under the name of the Presbytery of Lewis-Town, and do order them to meet and constitute the 19th day of November next, at Lewis-Town.

Upon a motion made by a member, the Synod do agree that if any of our

members shall see cause to prepare any thing for the press upon any controversy in religious matters, that before such member publish what he hath thus prepared, he shall submit the same to be perused by persons to be appointed for that purpose, and that Messrs. Andrews, Dickinson, Robert Cross, Pemberton, and Pierson, be appointed for this purpose in the bounds of the Synod to the northward of Philadelphia; and Messrs. Anderson, Thomas Evans, Catheart, Stevenson, and Thomson, in the bounds of the Synod southward of Philadelphia. Any three of each committee to be a quorum. Approved.

An overture from ——, humbly offered to the consideration of the reverend Synod.

The present state of the church of Christ, in respect of the great and almost universal deluge of pernicious errors and damnable doctrines that so boldly threaten to overthrow the Christian world, doth, we think, afford matter of very deep and serious exercise unto all considering persons, who have the interest of our Lord's kingdom at their heart; and were it not for the sure, firm, and comfortable promises contained in the infallible records of truth, the present appearance of things might be thought to presage a most fatal subversion of the kingdom of our Lord, by the success of the kingdom of darkness against it, and so discourage and dispirit the hearts of the true friends and loyal subjects of our exalted Lord. But blessed be his name, he is still King in Zion and to the ends of the earth, and will not suffer this so grievous an evil to prevail one handsbreadth further nor one minute longer than the measure and time appointed for it; for known unto God are all his works from the creation of the world.

However, it would seem that the present obvious state of things doth call for something at our hands, more than in a time of prevailing truth and purity in the church. It should seem that when so many wolves in sheep's clothing are invading the flocks of Christ every where in the world, we who are pastors by office and station should exert ourselves in an active and vigilant manner for the safety and preservation of our flocks committed to our care, from the assaults of these devouring monsters that are numerous abroad in the world. Surely the late bold assault that hath been made upon us, though blessed be God, without the desired and expected success, as yet, should put us to our arms and excite us with care and diligence to put ourselves in a posture of defence against all future attempts.

To this purpose we would humbly propose the following overture as an expedient to prevent the evil of such attempts, viz: That seeing we are likely to have the most of our supply of ministers to fill our vacancies from the north of Ireland, and seeing it is too evident to be denied and called in question, that we are in great danger of being imposed upon by ministers and preachers from thence, though sufficiently furnished with all formalities of Presbyterial credentials, as in the case of Mr. H——ll; and seeing also what was done last year may be done this year and the year following, viz: we are still liable to be imposed upon by such credentials; upon these and the like considerations, we humbly overture to this reverend Synod, to make an order to the following purpose:

1st. That no minister or probationer coming in among us from Europe, be allowed to preach in vacant congregations until first his credentials and recommendations be seen and approven by the Presbytery unto which such congregation doth most properly belong, and until he preach with approbation before said Presbytery, and subscribe or adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, before said Presbytery, in manner and form as they have done; and that no minister employ such to preach in his pulpit until he see his credentials, and be satisfied, as far as may be, of his firm attachment to said Confession, &c., in opposition to the new upstart doctrines and

schemes, particularly such as we condemned in Mr. H——ll's sermons. And lest some strangers might suffer by the rigorous observation of this order, let it be thus qualified, viz: That the moderator and two of the members of each Presbytery be appointed as a standing committee to act presbyterially in that affair as there may be occasion, and to be accountable to their respective Presbyteries.

2dly. That no congregation be allowed to present a call to any such minister or probationer coming in among us, though never so well certified, until he have preached at least one full half year within the bounds of this Synod.

3dly. That no congregation be allowed to present a call to any minister or candidate whatsoever, unless some of the brethren, members of the Presbytery unto which said congregation doth belong, have been present with said people to concur with them and moderate in said call, having been previously appointed thereunto by the Presbytery, and that no minister take upon him to moderate in such a case without such an appointment.

4thly. That no student be received to enter upon trials, in order to his licensing to preach, until he first repair unto the dwellings or lodgings of at least most of the ministers of the Presbytery to which he offers himself, and thereby give them an opportunity to take a view of his parts and behaviour.

5thly. That the Synod would bear testimony against the late too common, and now altogether unnecessary practice of some Presbyteries in the north of Ireland, viz: their ordaining men to the ministry *sine titulo*, immediately before they come over hither, thereby depriving us of our just rights, viz: that we unto whom they are designed to be co-presbyters, and among whom they design to bestow their labours, should have just and fair inspecting into their qualifications; we say that it seems necessary that the Synod bear testimony against such practice by writing home to the General Synod, thereby signifying our dissatisfaction with the same. And further, that in said letter or writing to the General Synod of Ireland, that we earnestly desire, that when ministers or probationers are about to come from thence to us, they would besides their Presbyterial credentials, procure also private letters of recommendation from some brethren there, who are well known to some of our brethren here, to be firmly attached to our good old principles and schemes, inasmuch as the instance of Mr. H——ll, and some other considerations to the same purpose, make us afraid lest we may again be imposed upon by men of his stamp, though furnished with all the formalities of Presbyterial credentials. The Synod do agree that no minister ordained in Ireland *sine titulo*, be for the future received to the exercise of his ministry among us, until he submit to such trials, as the Presbytery among whom he resides, shall think proper to order and appoint. And that the Synod do also advertise the General Synod in Ireland, that the ordaining any such to the ministry *sine titulo*, before their sending them hither for the future, will be very disagreeable and disobliging to us. And the Synod appoint Mr. Robert Cross, Mr. Thomson, and Mr. Houston, to send the above overture and appointment to the General Synod in Ireland, inclosed in a proper letter unto them.

Adjourned to nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, at nine o'clock, A.M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

A reference coming into the Synod from the Presbytery of East-Jersey, complaining of John McNeal's disingenuous conduct in relation to the settlement of Mr. Chalker in Bethlehem, and a supplication from said McNeal, containing several complaints against said Presbytery, in reference to their conduct in that affair, with several other papers from several parties concerned

therein, which were read, and all parties being heard what they had to offer, they were removed. And the Synod entering upon the consideration of the affair, do agree that Messrs. Thomson, Thomas Evans, Treat, and Martin, do meet and prepare an overture upon the whole, and bring it in to the Synod as soon as possible.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M.

At three of the clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The members appointed to bring in an overture upon the affair of John McNeal above mentioned, did accordingly do it; and the Synod, after much discourse, do agree in the following particulars.

1st. That from what appears to us, the jealousies which John McNeal had conceived concerning Mr. Chalker, as being averse from conforming to the order of the Synod in respect of our adopting the Westminster Confession, were altogether groundless.

2dly. It appears more than probable, that these groundless jealousies too industriously spread and propagated among the people of Wallkill, have been a principal cause of all the difference which hath fallen out between them and Mr. Chalker.

3dly. That John McNeal hath acted a very disingenuous and sinful part, in seeming to concur with and approve of the motion of ordaining Mr. Chalker at New York, and then immediately after to practise upon the people of Wallkill at home, to discourage them from adhering to their formerly declared desires of having Mr. Chalker settled among them. The degree of censure to be a rebuke from the Moderator.

4thly. That as we can see no ground of charging the people of Bethlehem or Mr. Chalker with breaking of covenant with the people of Wallkill, so we are of the mind that what of that kind the people of Wallkill were guilty of, which principally appears in their letter or remonstrance to the Presbytery, was chiefly if not wholly owing to John McNeal's industrious spreading his jealousies as above, and possessing the people of Wallkill with them.

5thly. That seeing Mr. Chalker did transport his family from Long-Island to the High-Lands, being encouraged thereto by the people of Wallkill, as well as Bethlehem, with a view of being fixed as pastor of both congregations; therefore we judge that in justice, that people are obliged to contribute according to agreement, to the discharging the expenses of said transportation, besides satisfaction for the supplies which he gave. And we earnestly exhort said people to comply with the design of this minute, that so they may clear their own way, for their being regularly provided with a minister as their circumstances will afford, which we judge they are not qualified for, until they, or as many of them as will be a competent congregation, fit to join in the calling of a minister, shall comply with this order; yet, in the mean time, we judge them capable of being supplied by preaching, and not to be excluded from sealing ordinances. We also earnestly exhort them to lay aside all their jealousies and prejudices arising therefrom, and cordially accept of Mr. Chalker for their pastor, according to the first agreement, until such time as they may be in a better condition to support a minister of their own.

6thly. The Synod do also think the Presbytery was too hasty in their proceeding to Mr. Chalker's ordination in so short a time after the presentation of his call and trials, and cannot approve of its being performed at such a distance from the people where he was to officiate.

The abovementioned rebuke was given by the moderator, according to order, and said McNeal professed submission to it.

A supplication being brought in by the people of Gloucester, representing

their sad and deplorable circumstances, and desiring the Synod to provide them a minister and some supplies, the Synod recommended it to the consideration of the Presbytery of Philadelphia to look after that affair, and use their diligence to send for a minister for them as speedily as they can, and in the mean time to provide them all possible supplies.

A supplication being brought into the Synod from one part of the Presbyterian congregation of Philadelphia, desiring Mr. Robert Cross to be granted them for their minister, with another paper to strengthen the supplication; and also another supplication from another part of said congregation, desiring Mr. Jonathan Dickinson to be their minister; the Synod not having time to issue that affair at the present, do defer the consideration of it till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

A supplication being brought into the Synod by John Boyd, by way of an appeal from the Presbytery of Donegall, in a complaint against Samuel Jack; the Synod do commit it to Messrs. Andrews, Treat, David Evans, Gillespie, Houston, and Thomas Evans, to go to the Upper Octorara the last Tuesday of October, and consider and determine of the business, and that any three of these to be a quorum; and it is recommended to the ministers to take elders with them if they can.

The Presbytery book of Donegall was brought in and approved.

The affair of Philadelphia reassumed, and after much discourse upon the affair, the further consideration of it deferred till next *sederunt.*

The west part of Hanover having applied to the Synod for the ordination of Mr. Cleverly, the Synod do order it to be left to the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

The persons appointed to bring in a letter to be sent to the Synod of Ireland, brought in said letter and it was approved.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The letter to Col. Ogden to be brought in by Messrs. Pemberton and Dickinson, was brought in and approved.

An account of the fund was brought in according to a foregoing order, and the sum total found to be five hundred twenty-four pounds, eighteen shillings and five pence.

The affair of Philadelphia reassumed, and a new supplication being brought into the Synod from that part of the congregation which desired Mr. Cross for their minister, desiring to be erected into a new congregation, capable to call a minister for themselves; the motion being entirely new to the Synod, and the parties not being prepared to go on in that matter, they do defer the consideration of it till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at eight o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Philadelphia reassumed. John Frame produced the subscription of a considerable number of hands to the supplication put in yesterday, and all parties were heard what they had to say at length, in reference to the

whole affair, and they being removed, the Synod spent considerable time in debate upon the affair, and at last agreed that it should be put to the vote, a new erection or not; and it was carried in the affirmative by a great majority. Mr. John Smith, of Bethlehem, in the High-Lands of New York, desired that his dissent might be entered in our minutes.

The Presbytery book of Philadelphia was brought in and approved.

Adjourned till two o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At two of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A motion being made by some members of the congregation of Philadelphia, showing their great dissatisfaction at the judgment of the Synod in erecting them into two separate congregations, and desiring they would review the affair, the Synod having reasoned much upon the matter at last came to agree that the judgment should be reviewed; and, accordingly, the Synod, in order to their obtaining of more light, took occasion to discourse with several persons of both parts of the congregation, and then all parties being removed, it was put to the vote, whether we should reverse the judgment whereby we erected a part of this congregation into a distinct society, and it was carried in the negative. Messrs. Dickinson, Pemberton, Webb, Elmer, Chalker, and Wales, desired their dissent to be entered in our minutes; and then, after some discourse, the Synod do agree, that the above judgment is not to be understood as designed to oblige said people to erect themselves now into a distinct society, but only that the Synod allow them so to do. And if said people shall see cause to continue united with the other part of the congregation as heretofore, they are also at their liberty. The Synod do also agree, that if said new erected congregation shall think fit to put the above granted liberty of being erected, into practice, then they are to notify the moderator of the commission, who upon such notification is hereby ordered to call the commission together as soon as conveniently may be, to order supplies for said new erection, and to give them directions as they shall judge meet for their being provided with a minister.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of next September.

Concluded with prayer.

1736.

At a meeting of the Synod,

7br. 15, 1736. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, James Anderson, Richard Treat, Joseph Houston, Robert Cathcart, Adam Boyd, Robert Cross, Robert Jamison, Ebenezer Goold, Hugh Stevenson, Hugh Carlisle, James Martin, William Bertram, Alexander Craighead, John Paul, William Tennent, William Tennent, junior, David Evans.

Elders: Messrs. William Gray, Andrew Hamilton, James Cook, Charles Hufty, Robert McCleland, William Mitchell, John Allen, James Galbreath, William Sharron, Richard Walker, John Henderson, Daniel Wescott.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Gillespie, Pumry, Dickinson, Pierson, Webb, Pemberton, Hubbell, Horton, John Cross, Chalker, Gilbert Tennent, Blair, Wales, Morgan, Thomas Evans, Hook, Hutchinson, Conn, Orme, Glascow, Nutman.

Mr. Adam Boyd chosen moderator, and Mr. John Thomson clerk.

Mr. Robert Cross, last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 1 Cor. iii. 11.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock.

16 *day, at eight of the clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

It being reported by the Presbytery of Donegall, that Mr. Orr having obtained a dismission from his congregation, did soon after disorderly desert the bounds of that Presbytery as a fugitive of discipline, it is ordered, that his name be rased out of the catalogue.

No reasons appeared for Mr. Gilbert Tennent's last year's absence.

Mr. Hook sent a letter of excuse for his absence, which was not sustained.

The members of that Presbytery are ordered to intimate to Mr. Hook that if, for the future, he shall absent himself in like manner, unless his reasons be more weighty, he will be noticed with more severity.

No reasons appeared for Mr. Hubbell's absence last year, nor for Mr. Gilbert Tennent's and Pumry's.

Reasons for Mr. Pierson's, Mr. Gilbert Tennent's, Blair's, Morgan's, Thomas Evan's, absence now, were sustained.

Messrs. Anderson, Thomson, Andrews, Jamison, Houston, Robert Cross, and the moderator, be a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

The Presbyterial books of the Presbyteries of New Castle, Donegall, Lewis, and East Jersey, were not brought.

Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Tennent, junior, ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Messrs. Thomson, Anderson, Houston, Cathcart, Martin, Alexander Craighead, William Tennent, senior and junior, report that they have brought something for the fund.

The Synod taking notice that whatever members of the Synod bring to the fund those years wherein they attend the Synod, there is no care taken by any of them to procure and send any contributions thereunto those years in which they are absent; and in order to make up this defect, the Synod orders that every Presbytery within our bounds, oblige their respective members to be provided with their respective contributions in due season, before the meeting of the Synod yearly, in order that if any of their members should be necessarily absent from the Synod, their contributions may, notwithstanding, be sent to the Synod.

Messrs. Andrews, Anderson, Thomson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Thomas Evans, Robert Cross, Martin, and the moderator, are appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

The Presbytery of Donegall report that Mr. Alexander Craighead was last winter ordained to the work of the ministry, and at that time did adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith, &c.; and also, both he and Mr. John Paul, lately from Ireland, having now heard the several resolutions and acts of the Synod in relation to the adopting said Confession, &c. did, before the Synod, declare their agreement thereunto. Also Mr. John Madowell, a probationer from Ireland, producing his credentials from the Presbytery of Temple Patrick, and session of Dunagor, together with various letters of recommendation from several brethren of note in the north of Ireland, all which were sustained and approven, and accordingly he was received by the Synod as a probationer, and recommended to the kind entertainment and encouragement of any Presbytery within our bounds to which he may be disposed to offer himself.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the end of the session.

The members who were appointed last year by the Synod to inquire into the scandalous reports of Mr. Gelston's misbehaviour in the High-Lands of New York, did as appointed, and sent an account of what discovery they could make of those matters to the Presbyteries of Donegall and New Castle,

who some time after met, and did take off the suspension from Mr. Gelston and restore him again to the exercise of his ministry. Mr. Cross also, together with the members of the committee appointed to take Mr. Tudor's trials, viz. Messrs. Pumry and Chalker, &c. did meet according to appointment, but did not ordain said Mr. Tudor, because of his insufficiency. Mr. Webb, Mr. Nutman, Mr. James Cross, being appointed members of said committee did not attend.

The Presbytery of Lewis did erect themselves according to order of Synod last year.

It is reported by the Presbytery of Lewis that Mr. Patrick Glasen, after passing through ordinary trials, and adopting the Westminster Confession, &c. was licensed to preach the gospel, and in pursuance of a call from the people and congregation of Monokin, in Somerset, in Maryland, and after the usual steps and trials in such cases, and a reported declaration of his adopting the Westminster Confession, &c. he was ordained a minister of the gospel and pastor of said people of Monokin.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund not yet brought in.

It is reported by the members of New Castle Presbytery that Mr. Andrew Archbold being under a *fama clamosa* of uncleanness with a certain young woman of his own congregation, and the Presbytery meeting, *pro re nata*, on that occasion, and not having light to come to a judgment at first, appointed therefore another meeting the week following, to inquire further into the truth of said report, but Mr. Archbold not appearing to justify himself, and a deposition of another young woman in the neighbourhood signifying that she was with child by him, with many other presumptions of guilt; upon this the Presbytery laid him under suspension until he should appear and justify himself, since which time he hath wholly absconded.

The committee appointed to meet at Upper Octorara to inquire into the merits of an appeal of John Boyd, of said Octorara, from the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, did meet according to appointment, and produced the minutes of their proceedings in that affair, which were read and approved, and ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

The proceedings of the commission of the Synod, which met here in June last to act in the affair of the new erected congregation in this city, are ordered to be inserted into our minutes, and are as followeth.*

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* At a commission of the Synod held at Philadelphia,

On the 17*th day of June*, 1736. *Post preces sederunt.*

Messrs. Robert Cross moderator, John Thomson, James Anderson, and Thomas Evans, members present. Thomas Evans chosen clerk.

Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Thomas Craighead, George Gillespie, Jonathan Dickinson, Ebenezer Pemberton, and John Pierson, absent.

A letter of excuse being come to hand from Messrs. Dickinson, Pierson, and Pemberton, for their absence, was read, and the reasons of their absence sustained.

The commission now meeting, at the instance of the people allowed to form themselves into a new erection, it was ordered, that the minutes of our Synod relating to said erection, be read, which was done.

A supplication from the said erection, or separate society, in Philadelphia, being presented to the commission, wherein representing the unsuccessfulness of the endeavours they had hitherto used in order to a re-union with the other part of the congregation, they requested for supplies. The commission judging that a re-union of said separate

The appointments of the Synod in reference to supplying the new erection, were fulfilled.

A supplication from the people of the new erection in this city desiring us to appoint one of our members to moderate in their drawing up a call to

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society with the rest of the congregation, if it could be possibly obtained on satisfactory terms to both parties, is much more desirable, as things now appear, thought it expedient to defer the consideration of said request for supplies, until some proper measures be taken to make a trial towards the desired re-union. Accordingly, upon our signification of this our mind to the party present, and our pressing them to do their part towards said re-union, they condescended so far as to declare a willingness to have a conference with the other part of the congregation on that head. Upon which it was agreed, in order to obtain said conference, that Messrs. Cross and Evans should acquaint Mr. Andrews, and some of the principal members of the other part of the congregation, with our desire of the same, and that every member of the commission should use their endeavours as opportunity offers towards effecting said union.

Adjourned till ten of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, at ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Craighead being now present gave the reasons of his absence yesterday, which were sustained.

Upon reading yesterday's order of acquainting Mr. Andrews, and some others of his now congregation, with our desire of using endeavours in order to make trial for the aforesaid re-union, the moderator reported that he and Mr. Evans had been with Andrews as appointed, and that Mr. Andrews heartily approved of the design, and accordingly fell in with it so far as to offer to propose the same to the members of his committee, which he did, and they, upon Mr. Andrews's motion, met, and after some conference among themselves about the matter, the result they came to was sent in writing to Mr. Andrews, in order to acquaint us with the contents thereof, the copy whereof is as followeth, viz.

Philadelphia, June 18th, 1736.

The committee thinks it very strange that the commission of the Synod, who were called here without the knowledge of the committee, should send any messages to the committee concerning the uniting the two little congregations of Presbyterians in this city, (though a thing much to be desired by all good men,) because the committee have lately been informed that the sole business of the commission now was to appoint ministers to preach to the congregation which the Synod most deliberately gave leave to separate and make a new erection. And the committee are also informed that the said congregation have provided a place which they are at this time fitting up for their purpose, and it is still more strange, considering the major part of the commission were the most active in contriving and bringing about the separation, notwithstanding some members of the committee pleaded so much against it, and showed such a dislike to their proceedings. And the committee are of the opinion, that they should not interfere with an affair belonging to another congregation.

A copy of the result of the committee sent by John Snowden, William Gray, William Spafford, George Sharswood, Thomas Powell, Edward Shippen.

The commission having read and considered the above result, do judge the import thereof to be, that the committee does look upon those persons who were allowed by the last Synod to erect themselves into a separate society, to be a distinct congregation from them, and therefore decline to have any conference with them in order to re-union.

The commission having deliberately considered the circumstances of the whole affair, do conclude that, (at least at present,) there is no probability of a re-union between the old congregation of this city and the new erection, and therefore do conclude that our way is now clear to order supplies to the said new erection, in compliance not only with the direction of the Synod in September last to that purpose, but also the earnest and repeated desires of said people, they having been industrious to prepare a house for the public worship of God among them.

Adjourned till four of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A supplication from the abovesaid new erection, requesting that they might be supplied

a minister, was read, the consideration of which deferred till to-morrow morning.

A paper from Mr. Henry Hunter, representing grievances in his present condition, and desiring the Synod's advice and assistance in reference thereunto, was produced and read, the consideration hereof deferred till to-morrow.

A supplication from the people of Paxton and Derry to the Synod, is referred to the committee of the fund, &c. which is to meet at eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, at ten o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund is not yet brought in.

The supplication from the new erection in this city came under consideration, and after some reasoning about the matter, it being put to the vote whether their request should be granted, it was carried in the affirmative by a great majority, and Mr. Thomson was appointed to moderate and assist that people in drawing up a call to any minister about whom they shall agree.

Mr. Hunter's affair came under consideration, and his paper was read a second time. Ordered, That the minutes of the Presbytery of Lewis be also read, which was done. Both Mr. Hunter and the members of the Presbytery of Lewis, offered a great deal in order to clearing the matter. After some debates it was moved, that all but members should remove, and then the Synod entered upon a serious debate about the whole affair. Mr. Hunter being called in and being interrogated, produced his credentials, which were known by some persons present to be genuine. It is recommended to Mr. Andrews, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Elmer, and Mr. Thomson, to endeavour to draw up an overture upon the whole affair, to be brought in against the afternoon.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund not yet brought in.

The members appointed to draw up an overture on Mr. Hunter's affair, report that they have not done any thing in that affair, on account that they did not agree in their judgments. The further consideration of that affair deferred till afterwards.

An overture of the committee upon the supplication of the people of Paxton and Derry, was brought in and is as followeth. That the Synod do declare, that inasmuch as we understand that many persons of our persuasion, both more lately and formerly, have been offended with some expressions or distinctions in the first or preliminary act of our Synod, contained in the printed

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until next Synod by the Rev. Messrs. Robert Cross, James Anderson, and Francis Alison, or any others whom the commission should think proper. It was ordered, that Messrs. Anderson and Cross supply them next Sabbath, and Mr. Cross the next Sabbath following, Mr. Alison the four Sabbaths in July, Mr. Paul the three first Sabbaths of August, Mr. Black the two last Sabbaths of August, and the first Sabbath of September, Mr. Cross the second Sabbath of September.

Ordered, That the moderator write a letter to Messrs. Alison, Paul, and Black, to acquaint them with these appointments.

The people of the new erection being called in, and the above orders being read in their hearing, they cheerfully and thankfully acquiesced in the same, and being exhorted by the moderator to behave themselves christianly, modestly, and humbly, under the present encouraging turn of Divine Providence so much in their favour, they were dismissed, and the present meeting of the commission concluded with prayer.

paper, relating to our receiving or adopting the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, &c: That in order to remove said offence, and all jealousies that have arisen or may arise in any of our people's minds, on occasion of said distinctions and expressions, the Synod doth declare, that the Synod have adopted and still do adhere to the Westminster Confession, Catechisms, and Directory, without the least variation or alteration, and without any regard to said distinctions. And we do further declare, that this was our meaning and true intent in our first adopting of said Confession, as may particularly appear by our adopting act which is as followeth: All the ministers of the Synod now present, (which were eighteen in number, except one that declared himself not prepared,) after proposing all the scruples any of them had to make against any articles and expressions in the Confession of Faith, and Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, have unanimously agreed in the solution of these scruples, and in declaring the said Confession and Catechisms to be the confession of their faith, except only some clauses in the twentieth and twenty-third chapters, concerning which clauses the Synod do unanimously declare, that they do not receive these articles in any such sense as to suppose the civil magistrate hath a controlling power over Synods with respect to the exercise of their ministerial authority, or power to persecute any for their religion, or in any sense contrary to the Protestant succession to the throne of Great Britain.

And we hope and desire, that this our Synodical declaration and explication may satisfy all our people, as to our firm attachment to our good old received doctrines contained in said confession, without the least variation or alteration, and that they will lay aside their jealousies that have been entertained through occasion of the above hinted expressions and declarations as groundless. This overture approved *nemine contradicente.*

An appeal of some of Mr. Tennent's people from the judgment of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, was brought in and read; together with a supplication from said persons to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and their judgment upon it. After that Mr. Tennent, the appellants, and the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, were heard at length, at last all parties were ordered to remove, and the Synod entered upon a debate upon this affair, and at last agreed in the following unanimous judgment, viz: That it appears evident to this Synod, that Mr. Tennent having in all respects acted, and been esteemed, and looked upon, not only by this Synod, but also by the congregation of Neshaminy, and particularly by the appellants themselves, as the minister and pastor of the people of Neshaminy, that he is still to be esteemed as the pastor of that people, notwithstanding the want of a formal instalment among them, (which omission, though the Synod doth not justify, yet it is far from nullifying the pastoral relation between Mr. Tennent and said people,) and consequently that the Synod doth justify the judgment of the Presbytery of Philadelphia in reference to that matter, and that said appellants had no just cause of complaining against or appealing from said judgment of the Presbytery.

Mr. Bertram is allowed to depart on account of his indisposition.

The committee ordered to meet at eight o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

18th day at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund not yet brought in.

Mr. Hunter's affair reassumed, and after much discourse and several questions asked at Mr. Hunter, together with his answers being heard, and Mr.

Hunter and all but members being removed, the Synod entered upon a serious debate about what we have heard, and after spending considerable time, at last it was agreed that Mr. Thomson and Mr. Cross shall each endeavour to prepare an overture upon this affair, to be brought in, in order to be approven against the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At 3 o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair of Mr. Hunter reassumed, and Mr. Cross and Mr. Thomson brought in their overtures, which were very parallel, and the substance as approved by the Synod was as followed.

The Synod having maturely weighed and considered the following particulars, viz:

1. That Mr. Henry Hunter has his credentials from the Presbytery of Antrim, which has separated from the Synod of Ireland, and with whom we have no communion, when he might have easily applied to other Presbyteries.

2. That he brought with him thence a certain instrument in writing, declaring him capable of administering the sacraments of the New Testament; when he himself acknowledges that he was not set apart to the work of the ministry by the imposition of hands or any of the rites of ordination.

3. That he acknowledges the design of getting the above instrument or certificate was, that if he should meet with any people of his principles that would entertain him as their pastor, he would have accepted the pastoral charge of them under that circumstance.

4. That when Mr. Hunter was asked before the Synod, whether he had any other papers or certificates besides that of his license, he said he had none, and yet afterwards owned he had the abovesaid paper or instrument.

5. That it appears probable to the Synod, that he had been forming a design, and that money hath been given for him to go to the Bishop of London for ordination. These things, together with the great prevarication he hath been guilty of, and the disregard he hath shown to our discipline and government, and the ground we have to suspect his principles, have determined the Synod to come to the following conclusion, viz: not to receive or entertain the said Mr. Hunter as a probationer or minister among us at present. Approved *nemine contradicente*.

The above judgment being read unto Mr. Hunter, he applied unto the Synod for advice how to behave under his present circumstances; to which the moderator replied in the name of the Synod, that they would give him an answer against Monday next.

A call from the new erection of this city to the Rev. Mr. Robert Cross, together with a supplication to the Synod, containing their reasons or arguments to move the Synod to concur with the design of said call, were read, and the consideration hereof is deferred until Monday morning, at ten of the clock.

The committee for the fund to meet at nine o'clock on Monday morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock on Monday morning.

Concluded with prayer.

20th day at 10 o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund is brought in, and it amounts to the sum of five hundred forty-one pounds and nine pence.

An overture concerning the fund was brought in by the committee, and

unanimously approved, and is as follows: that the committee for the fund meet after the breaking up of the Synod, in order to consult upon a method for the better securing of the fund, as well as distributing according to the necessity of such persons as will apply to them for relief, and to defray necessary charges of the press.

The Synod taking Mr. Hunter's request for advice into consideration, after some discourse, agree that the moderator should first admonish him concerning his past misconduct, and the occasion of jealousy concerning his principles which he has given by his conduct, and inquiring his motives in seeking to enter upon the work of the ministry, and advise him for the future to behave so as to testify his sense of his misconduct, and his sincere attachment to sound principles as well as purposes of a regular walk.

The affair of the call of Mr. Cross reassumed, and the supplication from said people again read. And after some debate, it was agreed that said call should be presented to Mr. Cross, and his sentiments concerning it desired by the Synod. In answer to which he declared, that he was clearly convinced and persuaded in his judgment, as things now appear, that it is his duty to stay with the people of Jamaica; and that he thought the Synod could not determine this matter until his people be apprised hereof, and have opportunity to declare themselves concerning it. After much and long debating about this affair, at last it was agreed that the clerk and Mr. Elmer, each of them by himself, should endeavour to prepare an overture upon the affair to be brought in, in the afternoon, to be considered by the Synod.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Cathcart is absent without liberty asked or obtained of the Synod.

Ordered, That the janitor for the future be paid out of the fund.

The next meeting of the Synod, is appointed to be on the fourth Wednesday of May next at Philadelphia.

An overture upon the affair of Mr. Cross's transportation, was brought in and is as followeth.

1st. That inasmuch as the people of Jamaica, whom we look upon as a party principally interested in this matter, have not been yet seasonably apprised of it, nor have they had any opportunity to lay in their objections against Mr. Cross's transportation to the new erected congregation, the Synod cannot now come to a final judgment or declaration herein. And therefore the Synod doth defer their judgment concerning it until next meeting of the Synod, and order that the people of Jamaica have a copy of our minutes relating hereunto; that they, together with a copy of the reasons advanced by this new congregation, be sent unto them, that they may prepare to appear in opposition to said call against next meeting, if they think fit.

2dly. That, in the mean time, Mr. Cross be appointed to supply this people two months before the next meeting of the Synod.

3dly. That the people of this new erection be allowed the nomination of ministers or candidates belonging to the Synod for their supply the rest of the time, wherein Mr. Cross is not appointed to supply them, and that the Presbyteries unto which such ministers to be appointed to supply this new erection do belong, shall appoint supplies in the room of such ministers, while they are absent from their respective congregations supplying this.

4thly. That the Synod shall order supplies to the people of Jamaica during the time of Mr. Cross's supplying here, as they shall judge most convenient.

5thly. Mr. Cross, and whatever other actual minister shall be ordered to supply this new erection, shall, as far as circumstances will allow, act and

behave among them, for promoting of their edification publicly and privately, as if they stood in a personal relation to them.

Some reasons for supporting this overture.

1st. That justice shall hereby be done to both congregations by this necessary delay.

2dly. Hereby provision will be made for this congregation as much to their desire and edification as possibly can be in such circumstances.

3dly. This Synod will appear to act tenderly and conscientiously, and to avoid precipitancy on both hands.

4thly. During this intervening time, by Divine Providence, the aspect of these affairs may be so far altered and cleared, that the Synod may be able to determine, both to the edification and satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Lastly. We think it would be very unsafe at present, finally to determine the matter one way or other, lest we should commit a very hurtful mistake.

The above overture and reasons were approven *nemine contradicente.*

And accordingly Mr. Cross is appointed to supply this new erection next Sabbath, and as many Sabbaths immediately before our next meeting as will complete the above two months. Mr. Pumry is ordered to supply Jamaica the second Sabbath of April, Mr. Lamb the fourth Sabbath of April, Mr. John Cross the first two Sabbaths in May.

Mr. Madowell is appointed to supply this new erection the months of October and November, Mr. Jamison the month of December, Mr. Alison the month of January, Mr. Carlile the month of February, Mr. Alexander the month of March.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May. Concluded with prayer.

1737.

According to appointment the Synod met at Philadelphia,

May 25*th,* 1737. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, John Thomson, James Anderson, Richard Treat, Joseph Houston, Robert Cathcart, Adam Boyd, Robert Cross, Robert Jamison, Hugh Carlile, James Martin, John Paul, William Tennent, Gilbert Tennent, Henry Hook, George Gillespie, Thomas Evans, Samuel Blair, Samuel Black, Francis Alison, Patrick Glascow, and Alexander Hucheson.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Thomas Craighead, Ebenezer Goold, Daniel Elmer, Hugh Stevenson, William Bertram, Alexander Craighead, William Tennent, jun'r., David Evans, Hugh Conn, John Orme, David Cowell, Ebenezer Weld, John Cross, John Pierson, Jonathan Dickinson, Joseph Webb, Samuel Pumry, Ebenezer Pemberton, Hubbell, Horton, Chalker, Nutman.

Elders present: Messrs. William Gray, Thomas Boyd, Philip Tanner, Jeremiah Lockery, John Wilson, James Buchanan, Matthew Adams, John Richey, Samuel Allen, William McCullough, Robert Patton.

Mr. Hook chosen moderator, Mr. Evans clerk.

Mr. Boyd, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 2 Cor. iv. 5.

Adjourned till 9 of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Masters Gillespie, Hook, Hucheson, Glascow, and Gilbert Tennent, gave reasons for their absence last year, which were sustained.

All the members of the Presbytery of East Jersey, were absent last year except Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Pierson, Blair, and William Tennent, jun'r. and no reasons given; and said members are now also absent, (except Gilbert Tennent.)

Messrs. Thomson, Andrews, Boyd, Treat, Gillespie, Martin, and the moderator, appointed to be a committee for the Fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

The Presbytery books of Lewis, New Castle, and East-Jersey, were not brought. Messrs. Alison and Cathcart, ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Dunagall, and Mr. Anderson and Mr. Cross, the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that Masters Anderson, Thomson, Jamison, Paul, William Tennent, and Gillespie, had brought something, which was ordered to be delivered to Mr. Andrews.

Messrs. Anderson, Andrews, Thomson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Robert Cross, Thomas Evans, Boyd, and the moderator, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing, and that if they have occasion to meet, they endeavour to have elders with them.

Messrs. Bertram, David Evans, John Cross, and William Tennent, jun'r. sent reasons of their absence, which were sustained.

It is reported that Mr. David Cowell in the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Mr. Samuel Black in the Presbytery of Dunagall, and Mr. Francis Alison in the Presbytery of New Castle, were, after the usual trials, ordained since last Synod, and that said persons did all of them adopt the Westminster Confession, &c., according to order of Synod.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the Synod break up.

Mr. Cathcart acknowledged his irregularity of departing from last Synod without leave, promising better care in that matter for the future, which was accepted.

The appointments of last Synod, with respect to the new erection in Philadelphia and the congregation of Jamaica, were fulfilled. And inquiry being made whether there were any representatives or letters from Jamaica, relating to Mr. Cross's transportation, it was found that a letter was come which was ordered to be brought in, in the afternoon. And the representatives of the new erection were ordered to bring in what they had to offer in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order with relation to the fund continued.

Mr. Hunter having petitioned that he might be restored to preach the gospel of Christ, &c. and we being satisfied of his good and becoming carriage and conduct since our last, are willing to give him all due encouragement. But considering the judgment of the Synod last year, and the reasons of it, we cannot allow the said Mr. Hunter to preach the gospel until he has first gone through the ordinary course of trials in some Presbytery belonging to this Synod, and the Synod does recommend it to the Presbytery to which he may apply, to treat him with all suitable and Christian lenity and tenderness, which was approved, *nemine contradicente.*

The above minute being read to Mr. Hunter he desired time to consider of it, which was granted.

The affair of the new erection at Philadelphia, deferred till to-morrow morning.

A reference from the Presbytery of Philadelphia relating to Mr. Morgan's suspension coming before us, and after reading the minutes of said Presbytery, with the evidences they grounded their judgment upon, and Mr. Morgan having liberty to offer what he thought fit in his own defence, the affair, after due consideration, was left to the committee to bring an overture upon it to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the committee meet at eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day. At ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order respecting the fund continued.

The committee brought in an overture on Mr. Morgan's affair, which is as followeth, viz.

Overtured, on Mr. Morgan's affair, That inasmuch as it would be both difficult and tedious for the whole Synod to make a particular inquiry into the whole affair, the Synod appoint the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and East Jersey to meet as a committee at Maidenhead, and judge of said affair, and absolve Mr. Morgan from the censure he lies under, if he appear suitably penitent, and no new accusations be advanced against him; and Mr. Morgan to continue under suspension until said committee meet, and that at least three members of each Presbytery meet as a quorum. The first Wednesday of August to be the time of meeting; and it is ordered, that every minister do endeavour to bring an elder with him. Approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Mr. Hunter came in and professed his acquiescence with the Synod's conclusion in his affair.

The affair of Mr. Cross's transportation reassumed, and a supplication from the new erection pressing the accomplishment of it pursuant to their call to him, and a letter from the congregation of Jamaica, offering reasons against his transportation, being read, together with the minutes of our last on said affair, the Synod thought it proper to inquire of Mr. Cross himself what his present sentiments were respecting said affair; which being done by the moderator, he desired liberty to defer giving his answer till the next *sederunt*, which was granted.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order respecting the fund continued.

A paper being brought in by Mr. Enoch Armitage, signed by many hands of the congregations of Hopewell and Maidenhead, requesting, that since Mr. Morgan is not likely to be useful any more as a minister among them, from his repeated miscarriages, if the Synod should see cause to restore him to his ministry, he might not be reinstated as their minister: The Synod came to this result, that the people of Hopewell and Maidenhead be left at their liberty to entertain Mr. Morgan as their pastor or not, even supposing the committee appointed to meet on his affair in August, should see cause to restore him to the exercise of the ministry; only the Synod enjoins the people to pay to Mr. Morgan what arrears are due to him for time past. The above minute approved, *nemine contradicente.*

The affair of Mr. Cross's transportation came again under consideration, and the representatives of the new erected congregation of this city put in a supplication which was read, the purport whereof was to invalidate what was offered in the supplication from Jamaica: Mr. Cross was desired to give his

sentiments of this affair, which he did at length, and at last submitted himself wholly to the judgment of the Synod, and then, all parties being removed, the Synod entered upon a very serious debate about this whole affair, in which considerable time being spent, at last after solemn calling upon God for light and direction in such a momentous matter, it was put to the vote, Transport Mr. Cross from Jamaica to Philadelphia or not, and it was carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente.*

A letter was brought in from Mr. Henricus Goetschius to Mr. Andrews, signifying his desire, and the desire of many people of the German nation, that he might be ordained by order of Synod to the work of the ministry, upon which the said Mr. Goetschius was desired to appear before the Synod, that they might see his credentials and have some discourse with him; which being done, he produced testimonials from Germany, which were ample and satisfactory to the Synod respecting his learning and good Christian conversation; whereupon he was recommended to the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, to act upon further trials of him, with respect to his ordination, as to them should seem fit.

Ordered, That the committee meet to-morrow morning at eight of the clock.

Adjourned till ten of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28th day. At ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

Upon reading the minutes of the last *sederunt* respecting Mr. Cross's transportation, at his request it was ordered, that Messrs. Thomson and Anderson write a suitable letter to the congregation of Jamaica, signifying what was done in said affair, and bring it in before the Synod break up.

A supplication from the new erection in this city being brought in and read, it was referred to the committee to bring in an overture upon it.

A supplication from part of the congregation of Neshaminy, containing matters of complaint against Mr. William Tennent, and also an answer to the several articles of said supplication from another part of the said congregation being brought in, and both of them read article by article, and both parties heard at length what they had to say, all parties were ordered to remove, and some time being taken upon the merits of that cause, Mr. Thomson was ordered to draw up an overture on that affair, and bring it in, in the afternoon.

Mr. Cathcart asked leave to depart, and it was granted.

Ordered, That the committee meet at three of the clock, P. M.

Adjourned till four of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the account of the fund be brought in next *sederunt.*

Upon the affair of Neshaminy overtured, That the reasons advanced by the disaffected party of that congregation in their supplication, in justification of their non-compliance with the Synod's judgment in relation to them last year, and their desire to be freed from Mr. Tennent as their pastor, are utterly insufficient, being founded, (as appears to us,) partly upon ignorance and mistake, and partly, (as we fear,) upon prejudice. It is therefore ordered, that the moderator recommend it to said people to lay aside such groundless dissatisfactions, and return to their duty, which they have too long strayed from, otherwise the Synod will be bound in duty to treat them as disorderly. Approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Overtured, That Mr. Cross's instalment be as soon as conveniently may be after his return from Jamaica, and that the Synod on Monday next appoint the person that shall instal him.

Overtured, That Mr. Elder supply the new erection the three last Sabbaths in June, and the first in July; Mr. Alexander the other four Sabbaths in July, and Mr. Carlile the month of August, if there be occasion.

Overtured, That one hundred pounds be allowed out of the fund to enable the new erected congregation to build an house of worship, and that said hundred pounds be paid at the meeting of the next Synod, if said congregation be obliged to build a meeting-house for themselves; and that the Synod at their meeting consider what is further to be done that way. But in case the two congregations should unite to their mutual satisfaction, that then there be only fifty pounds allowed them out of the fund, towards purchasing a burying ground.

The above overture approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Adjourned till ten of the clock on Monday morning.

The committee to meet at eight of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

30th day, at ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund brought in, and it appears that there is in it antecedent to any disbursements to be made this year:

	£	s.	d.
Due per bonds, - - - -	516	4	11½
Per interest on said bonds, -	60	19	11
In cash, - - - - -	11	00	3
In all, - - - - -	£588	5	1½

A supplication coming in from Trenton to the committee, desiring that something might be allowed to them out of the fund, overtured that five pounds be allowed them for this present year, £5 0 0

Overtured, That the janitor have for his service the sum of 1 10 0

Pursuant to a supplication from Mr. Black's congregation, overtured that they be allowed the sum of five pounds, 5 0 0

Overtured, That the treasurer have for his service the sum of 6 0 0

The above overtures were approved.

Mr. William Tennent, senior, having last year supplicated the committee to remit him the interest of his bond for four years then past, and the committee taking this into consideration, thought it not proper to grant him his request, but referred it to the consideration and determination of the Synod; which being now brought into the Synod, and Mr. Tennent renewing his petition, they taking it into consideration, agreed to grant his request, the said four years' interest amounting to the sum of seven pounds four shillings.

The Synod, according to the order of Saturday, coming to consider who shall instal Mr. Cross to the new erection, do now appoint Mr. Andrews to do the same, and that from this time Mr. Cross and said new erection be joined to the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Thomson brought in their letter to the people of Jamaica, which was approved, and ordered to be sent to them.

An overture to be considered by the committee of the Synod.

Inasmuch as God, who is a God of order, requires in an especial manner, that all the affairs of his kingdom on earth should be done decently and in order; and inasmuch as there may be frequent occasion in the course of Divine Providence, for the transportation or moving of ministers, or probationary preachers, from one Presbytery to another; for preventing many inconveniences that may ensue upon irregular steps that may be taken on such occasions, it is humbly proposed as a fit expedient:

First. That no probationer take upon him to preach in any vacant congregation without the order of the Presbytery under whose care he is.

Secondly. That no such probationer preach to any vacant congregation without the bounds of the Presbytery to which he belongs, until his way be cleared thereunto by the order and appointment of the Presbytery under whose care and inspection such congregation is.

Thirdly. That no Presbytery take upon them to appoint such probationer to preach within their bounds without Presbyterial credentials, or recommendations for that purpose from the Presbytery unto which such probationer belongs.

Fourthly. That no vacant congregation take upon them to invite or encourage any minister, or probationer, to preach among them without the consent and concurrence of their own Presbytery, nor until such probationer has preached before them with approbation.

Fifthly. That no minister take upon him to invite any minister, or probationer, from the bounds of another Presbytery, to preach unto any vacant congregation without the advice and concurrence of the brethren of his own Presbytery.

To evince the reasonableness of the above particulars, besides the inconveniences that may ensue upon the neglecting of such an order or method, it may be considered that both probationers and vacant congregations are and ought to look upon themselves as under the direction and government of their respective Presbyteries. That they ought to be ordered, directed, and concurred with, by them, in all the steps taken in order to their being settled.

It is also humbly proposed that the Synod would make an order to inquire yearly, at our respective Presbyteries, concerning their observation of the order and agreement of September, 1735, in relation to our receiving of ministers and preachers from Europe.

This above overture approved.

Mr. Barr, in behalf of the new erection of this city, supplicated the Synod for their direction and assistance in sending to Great Britain, or Ireland, for some assistance of money for them. The Synod agrees to it, and appoints Mr. Thomson, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cross, and the moderator, to assist said congregation in said affair.

The Presbytery books of Philadelphia and Donegall were brought in and approved.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next, and then to meet at Philadelphia, at two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1738.

May the 24*th*, 1738.

The Synod met at Philadelphia according to appointment.

Ubi post preces sederunt

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, William Tennent, David Evans, Daniel Elmer, Richard Treat, Hugh Carlile, David Cowell, George Gillespie, Joseph Houston, Robert Cathcart, Francis Alison, Charles Tennent, Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, junior, John Cross, Samuel Blair, Henry Hook, James Martin, Robert Jameson, James Anderson, John Thomson, Adam Boyd, John Paul, Alexander Craighead, and Samuel Black.

Elders: Messrs. William Gray, Richard Walker, James Abraham, James Erwin, William Semple, Philip Tanner, Robert Calwell, Robert Finney,

William McMackin, James McCroy, Richard Alison, Andrew Cregg, John Robb, John Luckey, William Sherran, Robert McConachy.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Robert Cross, Ebenezer Goold, Eleazer Wales, Thomas Evans, Alexander Hutchinson, Joseph Webb, Aaron Burr, Simon Horton, John Nutman, Isaac Chalker, Samuel Pumry, Walter Wilmot, Patrick Glascow, Hugh Stevenson, Thomas Craighead, William Bertram, John Orme, Hugh Conn.

Mr. Henry Hook, last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from John xxi. 14.

Mr. Richard Treat chosen moderator, and Mr. Francis Alison clerk.

Messrs. Elmer, Cowel, Craighead, Pierson, Dickinson, Pemberton, Horton, Webb, and Nutman, gave reasons for their absence last year, which were sustained.

Messrs. Thomson, Andrews, Dickinson, Pemberton, Boyd, Gillespie, Anderson, Martin, and the moderator, appointed for a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

The Presbytery books of Lewis and East Jersey were not brought. Messrs. Houston and Hook ordered to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia; Messrs. Paul and Martin to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle; Messrs. John Cross and William Tennent, jun'r, to revise the Presbytery book of Dunagall.

The Presbytery of Long-Island being reduced so that a quorum cannot statedly meet about business, it is ordered, that they be united to the Presbytery of East-Jersey, and to be henceforth known by the name of the Presbytery of New York.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod taking the state of the fund into consideration, and finding that many congregations are deficient in contributing to so good a design, and that ministers have not been so careful as they might be in proposing and endeavouring that thing, it is unanimously agreed by all the members of the Synod, that every minister shall either seasonably propose the affair, and read the Synod's letter to their respective congregations, and appoint a day for a public collection, if there be occasion for such a step to carry on the design, or oblige themselves to pay out of their own proper estates ten shillings to the fund; and that every Presbytery take care that their respective members, observe an order made in the year 1736, (directing absent members to send collections,) and that they, as soon as possible, notify what is now done to all the absent members. And seeing that the respective congregations of the Synod contribute to the fund, and have a right to know how what is collected is disposed of and managed, ordered, *nem. con.* that there be a minister and an elder out of every Presbytery, appointed to be members of the committee for the fund. And in pursuance of this order, the following elders are appointed for this year in conjunction with the ministers before mentioned, namely, William Gray, Robert Finney, Richard Alison, James McCoy.

Messrs. Anderson, Andrews, Thomson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Robert Cross, Thomas Evans, Boyd, Martin, and the moderator, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing, and that they endeavour to bring elders with them if they have occasion to meet, and that any five of these members be a quorum.

It is reported that Mr. Charles Tennent, in the Presbytery of New Castle, Mr. Aaron Burr and Mr. Walter Wilmott, in the Presbytery of New York, were, after the usual trials, ordained since the last Synod, and that they did

all of them adopt the Westminster Confession, &c. according to order of this Synod.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the Synod break up.

The committee appointed by the Synod to meet at Maidenhead and inquire into Mr. Morgan's affair, met according to appointment, and the minutes of their proceedings being read and approved, were ordered to be inserted in the Synod book, and they are as follows:*

A petition with some papers being sent by Mr. Morgan to the Synod, after reading the petition, they referred the consideration of said papers to the committee.

It is reported that Mr. Robert Cross was installed since our last, according to the Synod's appointment, and that the two congregations in Philadelphia were since united.

It was overtured by some members, that some order should be made to prevent irregularities that may arise in our churches, by some ministers and probationers preaching to vacant congregations without the bounds of their respective Presbyteries, without allowance from the Presbytery under whose care the said vacant congregations may be. This was debated for some time, and deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

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* "At a meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and East-Jersey, (being a committee appointed by the Synod to transact in the affair of Mr. Morgan,) on the first Wednesday of August, at Maidenhead, 1737, *ubi post preces sederunt:* Members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia: Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, Mr. David Evans, Mr. Richard Treat, Mr. David Cowell, and Mr. Hugh Carlile. Members of East-Jersey Presbytery: Mr. William Tennent, jun'r. Mr. John Nutman, and Mr. Samuel Blair. Elders: John Snowden, David Rhee, Stoffel Longstreat, and Nathaniel Brittin. Mr. Andrews chosen moderator, and Mr. Treat clerk. Mr. Treat opened the committee by a sermon on John xii. 26. The committee entered upon the affair of Mr. Morgan, and read the minute of the Synod that commissioned them for said business; and finding that the terms of Mr. Morgan's suspension being taken off were these, viz: There not appearing any new accusations against him, and his giving them sensible evidence of his repentance, the committee proceeded to inquire whether any new accusations were to be brought in against him. Upon which several evidences were given in to the committee, one from William Brittin in writing, and another from Nathaniel Brittin, and another from James Chambers, *vivâ voce,* which were taken down in writing; (which are all kept *in retentis,*) after this the committee adjourned to eight o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

"*4th day, at eight o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"The affair of Mr. Morgan being resumed, the committee proceeded according to direction to inquire into the signs of his repentance, and after a long conference with him in private, the committee entered into a serious debate about the matter, in order to come to a judgment. And after much time spent in the business, without coming to any conclusion, they adjourned to four of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

"*At four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"The committee re-entered upon the consideration of Mr. Morgan's affair, and began with a conference again with him. And after Mr. Morgan was withdrawn, they came to an inquiry among themselves, what conclusion they could come into about the premises; and after the deepest consideration, and most serious deliberation, they unanimously judged, that inasmuch as some new and express accusations have been brought against him since the order of last Synod, and in all our conference with Mr. Morgan, he gave us no sufficient evidence of his repentance, but still continues to deny the most material and notorious instances of the things formerly proved against him, they cannot see cause to take off the suspension, but judge it their bounden duty to continue it as before. Concluded with prayer."

At three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The debate concerning ministers preaching without the bounds of their own Presbyteries, to vacancies in the bounds of another Presbytery, without the consent of some of the members, was reassumed, and overtured upon it, that no minister belonging to this Synod shall have liberty to preach in any congregation belonging to another Presbytery whereof he is not a member, after he is advised by any minister of such Presbytery, that he thinks his preaching in that congregation will have a tendency to procure divisions and disorders, until he first obtain liberty from the Presbytery or Synod so to do. This being put to the vote, was approved.

Overtured, That in order to obviate some mistakes, that it is supposed some of the members of the Synod were in, with respect to the preceding overture, that it be voted that every minister belonging to this Synod, has liberty to preach in any vacant congregation where he shall be occasionally and providentially called, even though he is out of the bounds of the Presbytery to which he belongs, unless he be first advised by some minister of such Presbytery, that his preaching there is likely to procure divisions and disorders in such congregation; and even when he is so advised by any minister of such Presbytery, he may yet preach in such congregation, if by liberty first obtained from such Presbytery or from the Synod, but not otherwise. Agreed *nemine contradicente.*

Inquiry being made of the several Presbyteries, whether they have complied with an order of Synod touching the admission of ministers or candidates that come from Europe, it was found that said order has been complied with.

A letter from the Synod of Ireland, was read and referred to the committee to consider what is to be done in reference to it.

Ordered, That the committee meet to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, met at ten o'clock, according to appointment, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

Leave being desired by Mr. Elmer and Mr. Evans to depart, it was granted.

Upon the consideration of the letter from the Synod in Ireland, the committee brought in this overture, viz: That a respectful letter be wrote to the Synod in Ireland in answer to theirs, and brought into the Synod for approbation. Agreed, and ordered, that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Thomson write said letter.

Upon a supplication of some members of the Presbytery of New York, to be erected into a distinct Presbytery with some of the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia: Overtured, That their petition be granted, and that all to the northward and eastward of Maidenhead and Hopewell unto Raritan river, including also Staten-Island, Piscatua, Amboy, Bound-Brook, Basking-Ridge, Turkey, Rocksiticus, Minisinks, Pequally, and Crosswicks, be the bounds of that Presbytery; and that the said Presbytery be distinguished by the name of the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, and that the time of their meeting to be the second Tuesday of August next, at New-Brunswick. This overture was approved.

Upon the supplication of John Caldwell, in behalf of himself and many families of our persuasion, who are about to settle in the back parts of Virginia,

desiring that some members of the Synod may be appointed to wait on that government, to solicit their favour in behalf of our interest in that place: Overtured, That according to the purport of the supplication, the Synod appoint two of their number to go and wait upon the governor and council of Virginia, with suitable instructions in order to procure the favour and countenance of the government of that province, to the laying a foundation of our interest in the back parts thereof, where considerable numbers of families of our persuasion are settling, and that something be allowed out of our fund to bear the charges of said brethren who shall be appointed; and that also provision be made for supplying the congregations of said brethren during their absence from them, while prosecuting that affair; and that Messrs. Robert Cross, Anderson, Conn, and Orme, prosecute said affair; and that Messrs. Thomson, Dickinson, and Pemberton, prepare instructions for said brethren, and write a letter in the name of the Synod to the said government, to be brought in and approved by the Synod; and that the respective Presbyteries take care of these congregations during the absence of their pastors. And it is further overtured, that these brethren be allowed a discretionary power of using what money they have occasion for, to bear their expenses in a manner suitable to this design, being accountable to the Synod for their conduct in the whole affair. Approved *nemine contradicente.*

A supplication from part of the congregation of Pequea was read, desiring either to have some part of the labours of Mr. David Alexander, till they be judged by the Presbytery of Dunagall to have sufficient ability to support the gospel themselves, or to be erected into a congregation and having supplies granted them; their affair was deferred till another year, which we hope will have a happy tendency to bring things to a good issue, and till then they are to acquiesce in the determination of their Presbytery. Which was approved by a great majority.

The committee to meet at three o'clock.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order respecting the fund continued.

Upon a supplication from Mr. Morgan, and some papers of his that were laid before the Synod, it is overtured, that inasmuch as Mr. Morgan has given the Synod no sufficient evidence of his repentance for the gross scandals laid to his charge, and proved against him, they judge that Mr. Morgan continue under censure until he give just ground for the removal thereof, either to the Synod or the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Approved *nemine contradicente.*

The Presbytery book of New Castle approved.

A remonstrance from Mr. George Gillespie was read, in which he complains against the Presbytery of Donagall, for treating Mr. Zanchy, a probationer in their bounds, with too much lenity in only rebuking him, and not suspending him when he stood charged with composing a discourse in which were gross and evident errors, and for sending said notes to Mr. Henry Hunter, who preached them to his own overthrow. Upon which the Synod came to the following conclusion: That though they cannot but greatly condemn and censure Mr. Zanchy's conduct, in acting the plagiary in transcribing notes out of printed authors, thereby to impose upon the Presbytery, giving them a false view of his ministerial powers, and in sending the same notes to another candidate to enable him to impose upon his Presbytery in the same manner, as well as for his greatest imprudence in sending such heretical notes abroad, whereby most dangerous errors came to be vended; yet considering that Mr. Zanchy was sharply admonished by his Presbytery, that his trials were some time stopt, and

his ordination a considerable time delayed on the account of this, his conduct, we shall now lay no further censure upon him, but judge the Presbytery were defective in not taking notice in their minutes of his being such a plagiary, or censuring him on that account.

The committee to meet to-morrow morning at eight of the clock.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day. At nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The Presbytery book of Philadelphia brought in and approved.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent represented to the committee that there had been differing sentiments in some important points of doctrine between himself and Mr. Cowell, upon which there had been sundry large letters passed between them, concerning which he desires the Synod's opinion. It is overtured, that this affair be considered by a committee appointed by the Synod, who shall be directed to converse with Mr. Tennent and Mr. Cowell together, that they may see whether they so widely differ in their sentiments as is supposed; and if they find that there be necessity, distinctly to consider the papers; that Mr. Tennent and Mr. Cowell be both directed to refrain from all public discourses upon this controversy, and all methods of spreading it among the populace, until the committee have made their report to the Synod, and that no other member take notice of and divulge the affair.

The above mentioned committee were Messrs. J. Dickinson, Pierson, Pemberton, Thomson, Anderson, Boyd, and the moderator.

A supplication from some of the members of the western part of Hanover was read, and after some serious and suitable discourse upon it, it was referred to Messrs. Thomson and Martin to bring in an overture upon it, against the next *sederunt*.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M., on Monday next.

Concluded with prayer.

29th day. Met according to appointment, at three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Robert Cross is now present, and his reasons for being absent were sustained, and he is now ordered to be a member of the committee for the fund.

The order with respect to the affair of the fund continued.

An overture was brought in upon the affair between Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and David Cowell, by the committee appointed for that purpose, which is as follows, viz. The committee having heard Mr. Tennent and Mr. Cowell explain themselves upon the debate between them, think it proper to take this affair under further consideration, that they may have opportunity to peruse the papers that are produced, to give us a fuller view of this controversy, that so we may be prepared to give a report to the next Synod.

Mr. Cross joined to the committee. Approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Upon the affair of West Hanover, overtured as follows. Upon Mr. Budd's representation of the affair of Hanover: Overtured, That, however in a former minute relating to West Hanover, we have granted, that solemn obligations by lot or otherise may cease, when by any turn of Providence what is engaged unto becomes impossible or impracticable, or the end thereof is otherwise fully and completely answered, yet it appearing doubtful to us whether this be the case of said people in respect of the obligation laid upon them to unite or join with the people of East Hanover, by a lot or solemn engage-

ment to submit to the judgment of the committee of the Presbytery of East Jersey, who were called to judge in that affair, the Synod does judge that the safest way to come to a final determination of that affair is, that a committee be appointed to meet in that place in order to make as exact inquiry as they can into the circumstances of that people, whether there really be such a change in their case as to cause the above obligation to cease, and either give their judgment of this matter, or else represent it as it shall appear to them, to the Synod at our next meeting, which they shall judge most meet, and that Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, junior, Samuel Blair, David Cowell, Eleazar Wales, Jedidiah Andrews, Aaron Burr, John Cross, and Richard Treat, be a committee to meet at Hanover the last Wednesday of July next, upon the affair, at eleven of the clock, *ante meridiem.* Approved, *nemine contradicente.*

A proposal was made by the Presbytery of Lewes to this Synod, which is as follows: That this part of the world where God has ordered our lot, labours under a grievous disadvantage for want of the opportunities of universities, and professors skilled in the several branches of useful learning, and that many students from Europe are especially cramped in prosecuting their studies, their parents removing to these colonies before they have an opportunity of attending the college, after having spent some years at the grammar school; and that many persons born in the country groan under the same pressure, whose circumstances are not able to support them to spend a course of years in the European, or New England colleges, which discourages much, and must be a detriment to our church; for we know that natural parts, however great and promising, for want of being well improved, must be marred of their usefulness, and cannot be so extensively serviceable to the public, and that want of due pains and care paves the way for ignorance, and this for a formidable train of sad consequences. To prevent this evil, it is humbly proposed as a remedy, that every student who has not studied with approbation, passing the usual courses in some of the New England, or European colleges, approved by public authority, shall, before he be encouraged by any Presbytery for the sacred work of the ministry, apply himself to this Synod, and that they appoint a committee of their members yearly, whom they know to be well skilled in the several branches of philosophy, and divinity, and the languages, to examine such students in this place, and finding them well accomplished in those several parts of learning, shall allow them a public testimonial from the Synod, which, till better provision be made, will in some measure answer the design of taking a degree in the college. And for encouragement of students let this be done, without putting them to further expenses than attending. And let it be an objection against none, where they have read, or what books, but let all encouragement be only according to merit. And 'tis hoped this will fill our youth with a laudable emulation, prevent errors young men may imbibe by reading without direction, or things of little value, will banish ignorance, fill our infant church with men eminent for parts and learning, and advance the glory of God, and the honour of our Synod both at home and among our neighbours, who conceive a low opinion of us for want of such favourable opportunities. 'Tis further proposed, that all that are not licensed to preach the gospel, what university or college soever they come from, may undergo the same trials. But inasmuch as this act cannot be put in force this year, without discouraging such as may not be apprized of it, 'tis ordered, that there be two standing committees to act in the above affair for this year, one to the northward and the other to the southward of Philadelphia, and that Messrs. John Thomson, George Gillespie, Thomas Evans, Henry Hook, James Anderson, James Martin, Francis Alison, be a committee for the Presbyteries southward of Philadelphia. And that Messrs. Andrews,

Robert Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Pemberton, Dickinson, Cowell, and Pierson, be a committee to the northward. Approved by a great majority.

The committee to meet at nine o'clock to-morrow, A. M.

Adjourned till three of the clock to-morrow, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

30th day. At three o'clock, P. M. met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of the fund brought in, and it appears that there is, antecedent to any disbursement to be made this year:

Principal, - - - - -	£527	4	1½
Interest due, - - - - -	36	10	9½
Cash, - - - - - - -	19	3	5½
In all, - - - - - -	£582	18	4½

Overtured, That since we shall probably break in upon the capital stock of our fund, by the allowance to Philadelphia, and the charge of our messengers to Virginia, it be resolved that half our yearly interest be kept in stock, until it amount to the sum that by these expenses shall be taken from the capital. Agreed.

The members appointed to draw up the address to the government of Virginia, and instructions for the members appointed to go, brought in what they had done, which is as follows:

To the honourable William Gooch, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Virginia, the humble address of the Presbyterian ministers convened in Synod, May 28th, 1738, &c. May it please your honour, we take leave to address you in behalf of a considerable number of our brethren who are meditating a settlement in the remote parts of your government, and are of the same persuasion with the Church of Scotland. We thought it our duty to acquaint your honour with their design, and to ask your favour in allowing them the liberty of their consciences, and of worshipping God in a way agreeable to the principles of their education. Your honour is sensible that those of our profession in Europe have been remarkable for their inviolable attachment to the Protestant succession, in the illustrious house of Hanover, and have upon all occasions manifested an unspotted fidelity to our gracious sovereign King George, and we doubt not but these our brethren will carry the same loyal principles to the most distant settlements where their lot may be cast, which will ever influence them to the most dutiful submission to the government which is placed over them. This we trust will recommend them to your honour's countenance and protection, and merit the free enjoyment of their civil and religious liberties. We pray for the Divine blessing upon your person and government, and beg leave to subscribe ourselves your honour's most humble and obedient servants.

Which was approved.

An answer to the letter from the Rev. Synod in the north of Ireland was brought in by the members appointed for that purpose, and was approved.

Ordered, That the clerk transcribe the letter, and the moderator sign it.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next, at three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1739.

At a meeting of the Synod at Philadelphia,

May 23*d*, 1739. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of Donagall Presbytery: Messrs. James Anderson, John Thomson, Adam Boyd, John Paul, Alexander Craighead, Samuel Black, David Alexander, John Elder, Richard Zanchy. Absent: Mr. William Bertram, Mr. Thomas Craighead.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. George Gillespie, Alexander Hutchinson, Robert Cathcart, Joseph Houston, Charles Tennent, Francis Alison. Absent: Messrs. Thomas Evans, Hugh Conn, John Orme.

Lewes Presbytery: Messrs. Henry Hook, James Martin, Robert Jamison, John Thomson. Absent: Messrs. Hugh Stevenson, Hugh Carlile, Patrick Glascow.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, William Tennent, David Evans, Ebenezer Goold, David Cowell, Richard Treat. Absent: Daniel Elmer, Joseph Morgan.

New Brunswick: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Samuel Blair, Eleazer Wales. Absent: John Cross.

New York Presbytery: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Ebenezer Pemberton. Absent: George Philips, Joseph Lamb, Walter Wilmot, Joseph Webb, Aaron Burr, John Nutman, *excused*, Nathaniel Hubbell, John Pierson, *excused*, Silas Leonard, Isaac Chalker, Samuel Pumry.

Elders: Matthew Atkinson, Thomas Hope, John Christy, Hugh Barclay, John McCutcheon, Jared Graham, Walter Caruth, Alexander White, Hugh McQuarter, Robert Smith, John Woodrow, William McCrea, William McKolough, Henry Perkar, William Gray, John Weir, David Chambers, Thomas Worthington.

Mr. Treat, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 2 Cor. v. 18.

Mr. James Anderson chosen moderator, and Mr. Robert Cross clerk.

Messrs. Ebenezer Goold, David Evans, Alexander Hutchinson, Joseph Webb, Simon Horton, John Nutman, William Bertram, gave or sent reasons for last year's absence, which were sustained.

Mr. Thomas Craighead removed by death since last Synod.

Mr. Joseph Webb sent reasons for his absence this year, which were sustained.

Messrs. Thomson, Andrews, Dickinson, Pemberton, Boyd, Treat, Gillespie, Cross, Martin, and the moderator, appointed a committee for the fund, and other business the Synod shall recommend to them. The following elders appointed to join with them in the affair of the fund, viz. John Christy, Alexander White, Henry Perkar, William Gray, David Chambers. Mr. Samuel Blair added to the committee of the fund.

Messrs. Houston and Jamison appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Dunagall; Messrs. Black and Elder the Presbytery book of New Castle; Messrs. Paul and Cathcart the Presbytery book of Philadelphia; Messrs. Hook and Zanchy the Presbytery book of New Brunswick; Messrs. Alexander and Alison the Presbytery book of New York; Messrs. Cowell and William Tennent, junior, the Presbytery book of Lewes.

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24*th*. *Nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Anderson, Thomson, Boyd, Elder, Black, Paul, Craighead,

Zanchy, Gillespie, Hutchinson, Cathcart, Houston, Charles Tennent, Alison, Hook, Martin, Jamison, Andrews, William Tennent, senior, David Evans, Cowell, Treat, Gilbert Tennent, Blair, Dickinson, and Pemberton, had brought some; and Mr. Pierson sent some.

Whereas, by order of last Synod absent members were ordered to make collections in their respective congregations for the future, or if they neglect it to forfeit ten shillings out of their own private purse, and we find that Messrs. Wilmot, Burr, Leonard, Chalker, Nutman, and Pumry, absent members, have not sent collections, Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Dickinson are therefore appointed to inform them either to make collections for this year or pay the forfeiture. And Mr. Hugh Carlile and Mr. Glascow are to be informed by the Presbytery of Lewes of the same; Mr. Bertram by the Presbytery of Donegall; Mr. Thomas Evans by the Presbytery of New Castle; and Mr. Elmer by the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Robert Cross, Thomas Evans, Boyd, Treat, Gilbert Tennent, Martin, and the moderator, appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing, and that they endeavour to have elders with them if they have occasion to meet, and that any five of the ministers above mentioned be a quorum.

It is reported that Messrs. Zanchy, Alexander, and Elder, in the Presbytery of Donagall, Mr. John Thomson, jun'r. in the Presbytery of Lewes, and Mr. Leonard in the Presbytery of New York, were after the usual trials ordained since the last Synod, and that they did all of them adopt the Westminster Confession, &c. according to the order of the Synod in that case provided.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the Synod break up.

Inquiry being made of the several Presbyteries, whether they have complied with an order of Synod, respecting the trial of ministers and candidates coming from Europe, it was found they had so done.

The congregations of Turkey and Rocksiticus, which were included last year within the bounds of the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, making application to the Synod to be under the Presbytery of New York, it was granted.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

A supplication from the people of Leacock was brought in, and after much discourse upon the affair, the Synod appointed a committee to meet upon the place, and to view the circumstances of the two contending congregations, and finally determine the controversy. The members appointed for said committee were Messrs. Houston, Alison, Cathcart, Hook, Cross, and Treat, who are to meet at Pequea the second Wednesday of October next.

The affair of Mr. Morgan's suspension, being remitted to the Presbytery of Philadelphia by last Synod, they now report that they have taken off his suspension, and restored him to the exercise of his ministry again; and the minutes of their proceeding being read, the Synod approves their conduct.

The affair between Mr. Gilbert Tennent and Mr. Cowell, came under consideration in reading last year's minutes, but the committee to whom that affair was referred, report that they are not yet prepared to acquaint the Synod with what they have done, which is therefore referred to another *sederunt*, and

the said committee are ordered to get ready and make report as soon as may be.

The committee appointed to go to Hanover, and help the people there in their difficulties, made report to the Synod of their compliance, and brought in the minutes of their proceedings, which being read were approved and ordered to be inserted in their minutes, and are as follows, viz :*

The Presbytery of Brunswick, upon reading over the minutes, brought in a paper of objections against two acts made last year, which was read, and the further consideration of it deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25 *day at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair of Mr. Cowell and Mr. Tennent deferred.

The consideration of the New-Brunswick paper reassumed, and after much reasoning upon it, the further consideration of it deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

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* "At a committee of the Synod met at Hanover, July 26th, 1738, according to appointment of Synod, *ubi post preces sederunt* Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, jun'r., John Cross, David Cowell, and Richard Treat. Ministers of the committee absent: Messrs. Samuel Blair, Eleazer Wales, and Aaron Burr. Mr. Andrews chosen moderator, Mr. Treat, clerk. Mr. Gilbert Tennent opened the committee by a sermon, Ezek. xi. 19.

"The committee in order to lay a clear foundation to go upon, thought proper to read and consider the minutes of the Synod in relation to the affair; and after that was done the moderator proceeded to inquire into the matter they were come about, and asked the people of West-Hanover, whether their circumstances were altered for the better since the casting of the lot, and it was answered by some of them in the hearing and behalf of the whole, that they were much increased as to number of persons in their society, and that they were near one half abler than they were. Which representation was not contradicted nor disproved by any, and plainly appeared to the committee to be the truth of their case. A paper also was brought in by Mr. Kitchell and some others, in behalf of the eastern part, as their committee, setting forth their weakness, and expressing their desire of an union with their western brethren, if it could be had upon reasonable terms. Upon which, that the committee might come to understand the real truth with respect to said eastern people, the moderator proceeded to interrogate Mr. Kitchell and others of said eastern part, about their affairs, and they informed the committee, that they were much stronger than when the lot was cast; that though it was hard with them for the present to fulfil their obligations to Mr. Nutman, yet they cannot but acknowledge they are in growing circumstances, and able to support of themselves; adding withal, that it is their mind, and the mind of their Society, not to have an union with the whole of the western society but with a part only, and that if the committee should judge them to unite upon any of the former terms, covenants, and agreements, it would be the destruction of the whole, and be prejudicial to the interest of religion among them. Whereupon the committee came unanimously to form their judgment after the following manner, viz: That according as things are represented to them, and as they appear, they cannot but judge,

"1. That the former obligations of said people, by virtue of the lot formerly cast among them, are now impracticable.

"2. That the end of the said lot will be much better answered by their being two separate societies, than by being united into one, as formerly was desired and proposed.

"3. That therefore we judge said western people may be a separate society by themselves. Furthermore, to prevent any disputes or difficulties between said western society and Basking-Ridge, it was proposed and agreed to, mutually by said people, that whosoever were desirous of going from the congregation to which they belong to the other, shall have liberty so to do, provided they pay off all their respective debts due to the society to which they have belonged.

"The above determinations of the committee were published to the aforesaid people, and all parties expressed their entire satisfaction therein. Concluded with prayer."

Horâ 3tia, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair of New-Brunswick Presbytery reassumed, and after much reasoning upon it, the further consideration of it deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock.

Concluded with prayer.

26th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued, and Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet next Monday, at ten of the clock, and prepare said affair to be brought into the Synod at the next session.

The New-Brunswick Presbytery having brought a paper of objections against the act made last year, touching the previous examination of candidates, the Synod consented to review that act, and upon deliberation agreed to the following overture, which they substitute in the room of it, viz: It being the first article in our excellent Directory for the examination of the candidates of the sacred ministry, that they be inquired of, what degrees they have taken in the university, &c.; and it being oftentimes impracticable for us in these remote parts of the earth, to obtain an answer to these questions, of those who propose themselves to examination, many of our candidates not having enjoyed the advantage of a university education, and it being our desire to come to the nearest conformity to the incomparable prescriptions of the Directory, that our circumstances will admit of, and after long deliberation of the most proper expedients to comply with the intentions of the Directory, where we cannot exactly fulfil the letter of it; the Synod agree and determine, that every person who proposes himself to trial as a candidate for the ministry, and who has not a diploma, or the usual certificates from an European or New England university, shall be examined by the whole Synod, or its commission, as to these preparatory studies which we generally pass through at the college, and if they find him qualified, they shall give him a certificate, which shall be received by our respective Presbyteries as equivalent to a diploma or certificate from the college. This we trust will have a happy tendency to prevent unqualified men from creeping in among us, and answer, in the best manner our present circumstances are capable of, the design which our Directory has in view, and to which by inclination and duty, we are all bound to comply to our utmost ability. This was agreed to by a great majority.

Adjourned till Monday next, at three o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

28 *day. Horâ tertia, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The committee for the fund met according to appointment, but not having accomplished said affair, the Synod appoints said committee to meet to-morrow, at eight of the clock.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent protested in behalf of himself and such as should join with him, viz: William Tennent, sen'r. William Tennent, jun'r., Samuel Blair, Eleazer Wales, Charles Tennent, ministers. Thomas Worthington, David Chambers, William McCrea, John Weir, elders; against the above-mentioned act respecting the trial of candidates.

The act made last year with respect to ministers preaching out of their own bounds, being taken under a review, the Synod determine, that if any minister in the bounds of any of our Presbyteries, judge that the preaching of any minister or candidate of a neighbouring Presbytery in any congregation, has had a tendency to promote division among them, or hinder the orderly settle-

ment of a gospel ministry, in that case he shall complain to the Presbytery in whose bounds the said congregation is, and that the minister who is supposed to be the cause of the foresaid division, shall be obliged to appear before them, and it shall be left to them to determine whether he shall preach any more in the bounds of that congregation, and he shall be bound to stand to their determination, until they shall see cause to remove their prohibition, or the Synod shall have opportunity to take the affair under cognizance. Approved *nemine contradicente.*

Mr. Anderson reports, that in compliance with an order of Synod last year, he had waited upon the Governor of Virginia with the Synod's address, and received a favourable answer, the substance of which is contained in a letter from the governor to the moderator of the Synod, which is as follows:

"Sir: By the hands of Mr. Anderson I received an address signed by you, in the name of your brethren of the Synod of Philadelphia. And as I have been always inclined to favour the people who have lately removed from other provinces, to settle on the western side of our great mountains; so you may be assured, that no interruption shall be given to any minister of your profession who shall come among them, so as they conform themselves to the rules prescribed by the act of toleration in England, by taking the oaths enjoined thereby, and registering the places of their meeting, and behave themselves peaceably towards the government. This you may please to communicate to the Synod as an answer of theirs. Your most humble servant.

"WILLIAM GOOCH.

"*Williamsburg, November 4th,* 1738."

Messrs. Conn, Cross, and Orme, gave the reasons why they did not go to Virginia, which were sustained.

Mr. Anderson reports that his journey to Virginia cost fifteen pounds, which the Synod allows out of the fund, and does approve his conduct in the whole affair.

Ordered, That the committee consider what is to be done further in the Virginia affair. And the committee returned Mr. Anderson thanks for what he hath done in it.

The revisers of the Presbytery book of Brunswick, offered several objections against said book, the consideration of which deferred till to-morrow morning.

The Presbytery book of Philadelphia brought in and approved.

A reference from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the designed new erection at Hopewell and Maidenhead was brought in, and after reading some papers, the further consideration of it deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till ten of the clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

29*th day. Horâ decimâ, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The committee for the fund met according to appointment.

The account of the fund brought in, and it appears that there is antecedent to any disbursements to be made this year.

	£	s.	d.
Principal - - - - - -	517	4	11½
Interest due, - - - - -	46	12	9
Cash in bank, - - - - -	35	17	2¾
In all, - - - - - -	£599	14	10¼

It appearing by the Presbytery book of New Brunswick, that notwithstanding the Synod's agreement last year, that no candidate for the ministry

who has had a private education, should be admitted to trials, in order to be licensed to preach the gospel by any Presbytery within our bounds, until such candidate's learning were previously examined by a committee appointed for that purpose, that the Presbytery of New-Brunswick have admitted to trials and licensed Mr. John Rowland to preach the gospel without his submitting to such preparatory examination as was appointed; the Synod do therefore judge the proceedings of the said Presbytery of New-Brunswick to be very disorderly, and do admonish the said Presbytery to avoid such divisive courses for the future; and do determine not to admit the said Mr. Rowland to be a preacher of the gospel within our bounds, nor encourage any of our people to accept him until he submit to such examinations as were appointed by this Synod for those that have had a private education.

This overture carried in the affirmative by a great majority.

There being a reference made by the Presbytery of Philadelphia of some difficulties brought before them by some of the people of Hopewell and Maidenhead, and a complaint made to the Synod by some of the said people against the said Presbytery, the Synod do judge that the said people have behaved with great indecency towards their Presbytery, by their unmannerly reflections, and unjust aspersions, both upon the Synod and the Presbytery, and that they have acted very disorderly in improving Mr. Rowland as a preacher among them, when they were advised by the Presbytery that he was not to be esteemed and improved as an orderly candidate of the ministry; and the Synod do wholly disallow the said complainants being erected into a new congregation until they do first submit the determination of the place for erecting a new meeting-house to their Presbytery, as was formerly agreed between them and their neighbours, as a condition of their being a separate congregation.

This overture was approved by a great majority.

And it is further ordered by the Synod, That when the Presbytery of Philadelphia meet at Hopewell and Maidenhead, to fix the place of a new meeting-house, they shall call the following correspondents: Messrs. John Pierson, John Nutman, Samuel Blair, Aaron Burr, Nathaniel Hubbell, and Eleazar Wales.

Adjourned till two o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Horâ secundâ. P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed by the Synod to consider the controversy between Mr. Gilbert Tennent and Mr. David Cowell, brought in the following overture, which being read, the Synod had the great satisfaction to find the contending parties fully agreed in their sentiments upon the point in controversy, according to the doctrine contained in the said overture, viz. Though they apprehend that there are some incautious and unguarded expressions used by both the contending parties, yet they have ground to hope that the principal controversy between them flows from their not having clear ideas of the subject they so earnestly debate about, and not from any dangerous errors they entertain, since they both own that the glory of God is the ultimate end of all things; and as the point under debate concerns an important doctrine of religion, we would take liberty to express our minds with respect to it in a few words, which we hope will be agreeable to the sentiments of the Synod, and readily agreed to by the parties concerned in this dispute. We apprehend that the glory of God was the only motive that influenced him to all his external operations. For since nothing else had an existence, nothing certainly could influence him from without himself. By his glory declarative, we mean the manifestation of his essential and adorable perfections for the great

and excellent ends he designed in this manifestation. It is the indispensable duty of every creature, according to its utmost capacity, to aim at the same end which the blessed God has in view, and to endeavour to direct all his actions unto it. The method in which the great God has required us to prosecute this end is by a conformity to his image, and example, and a sincere and universal obedience to his laws. In his infinite and astonishing grace he has been pleased inseparably to connect our happiness with the prosecution of this end. This obedience which we are to pay to the Divine law, and by which alone we can glorify him, must be performed by us, not only because it is the way to happiness, but because it is infinitely just and reasonable in itself, agreeable to the blessed God, whom we are under indissoluble obligations to obey, and carry on the same designs which he has been pleased to propose in all his actions. And these designs of the glory of God, and our own happiness, are so inseparably connected that they must never be placed in opposition to each other. For in all cases, he that actively glorifies God promotes his own happiness, and by a conformity to the Divine statutes and laws, which is the only way to happiness, we, in the best manner we are capable, glorify God.

The case of the people of Norrington being represented to the Synod, for supplies for the ensuing year, the Synod appointed Messrs. Boyd, Black, Houston, and Alexander, to supply them every third Sabbath until next Synod.

An overture for erecting a school, or seminary of learning, being brought in by the committee, the Synod unanimously approved the design of it, and in order to the accomplishing it did nominate Messrs. Pemberton, Dickinson, Cross, and Anderson, two of which, if they can be prevailed upon, to be sent home to Europe to prosecute this affair with proper directions. And in order to this, it is appointed that the commission of the Synod, with correspondents from every Presbytery, meet at Philadelphia the third Wednesday of August next. And if it be found necessary, that Mr. Pemberton should go to Boston pursuant to this design, it is ordered, that the Presbytery of New York supply his pulpit during his absence.

Mr. Hamilton Bell having offered himself to examination, the Synod appoints their commission, together with any other members they think fit, to meet to-morrow, at nine o'clock, for that purpose.

A petition from Thomas Clark was presented to the Synod, and it is recommended to all the ministers within our bounds, to whom he shall apply, to do what they think expedient for his relief.

An overture was presented to the Synod from Mr. Thomas Evans, which is ordered to be kept *in retentis* till the next Synod.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next, and then to meet at Philadelphia, at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1740.

The Synod met according to appointment,

Philadelphia, May 28*th*, 1740. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of the Presbytery of New York: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Walter Wilmot, Aaron Burr, John Nutman, John Pierson, Simon Horton, Joseph Houston. Absent: Ebenezer Pemberton, Joseph Webb, Nathaniel Hubbell, Silas Leonard, Isaac Chalker.

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. James Anderson, John Thomson, Adam Boyd, Alexander Craighead, John Elder, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Cavin, Samuel Black. Absent: Samuel Thomson, David Alexander, William Bertram.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. George Gillespie, Robert Cathcart, Charles Tennent, Francis Alison, Samuel Blair, Hugh Conn, Alexander Hutchinson. Absent: Thomas Evans, John Orme.

Lewes Presbytery: Messrs. James Martin, Robert Jamison, Hugh Carlile. Absent: Hugh Stevenson, Patrick Glascow.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, William Tennent, David Evans, David Cowell, Francis McHenry, Richard Treat. Absent: Messrs. Elmer, Morgan, Goold

New-Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Eleazer Wales, John Cross.

Elders present: Joseph Woodruff, Joseph Riggs, John Odel, John Alison, James Montgomery, Daniel Henderson, Robert Matthews, Thomas Farrell, James Swain, John Hamilton, Joseph Steel, Hugh Lion, John Steel, James Perry, James Cockran, William Gray, John Cross, Cornelius Winckoop, James Miller, William Emmitt, Richard Walker, James McCoy, Robert Cummings, John Howey.

Mr. Anderson, the moderator of the Synod last year, opened the Synod by a sermon on Gal. v. 15.

Mr. Pierson chosen moderator, and Mr. Treat clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, precisely.

Concluded with prayer.

29 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.*

It is reported that Mr. George Philips, of the Presbytery of New York, and Mr. Paul, of the Presbytery of Donegall, are dead since last Synod.

Mr. Bertram, Mr. Glascow, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Orme, excused for their absence.

Messrs. Thomson, Andrews, Dickinson, Boyd, Anderson, Gillespie, Robert Cross, Martin, Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Alison, and the moderator, ministers; and Joseph Woodrooff, John Alison, John Steel, John Cross, Robert Cummings, Elders, appointed a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

The Presbytery books of New York, Donegall, and New-Brunswick, forgot.

Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Houston, appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia; Mr. Cowell and Mr. Jamison, the Presbytery book of New Castle; Mr. William Tennent, jun'r. and Mr. Blair, the Presbytery book of Lewes.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that there was something brought by Messrs. Dickinson, Burr, Pierson, Horton, Thomson, Boyd, Craighead, Elder, Zanchy, Black, Gillespie, Cathcart, Alison, Blair, Martin, Jamison, Andrews, Cross, Cowell, and Treat.

Messrs. Andrews, Thomson, Anderson, Gillespie, Dickinson, Pemberton, Robert Cross, Blair, Treat, Alison, Boyd, Martin, Gilbert Tennent, and the moderator, to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing, with elders if they have occasion to meet, and that any five of the ministers be a quorum.

It is reported that Mr. Francis McHenry, Mr. Samuel Cavin, and Mr. Samuel Thomson, were, after the usual trials, ordained since last Synod, and that they did all of them adopt the Westminster Confession, &c. according to the order of the Synod.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the Synod break up.

The affair of Leacock deferred.

Upon reading over the minutes of the last year, the act about the previous trial of candidates for the ministry, which has been the occasion of much debate in the Synod, and protested against by some of the brethren, came under consideration, upon which a paper was brought in and read, containing proposals for accommodating of the said unhappy debates. Which being new to the Synod, they resolved, that in compliance with the desire of several other members of the Synod, as well as the protesting brethren, each of them should have a copy of the proposals to consider of till to-morrow morning.

The other act, relating to ministers preaching within the bounds of other Presbyteries than that to which he or they do belong, coming in course to be considered, the Synod agree to defer any debates about that matter till the preceding affair be issued.

Upon reading that minute, concerning that debate between Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and David Cowell, and the judgment of the committee of the Synod upon it, Mr. Tennent seeming dissatisfied with the committee's management in that debate, requested that the thing might be considered by the Synod; the consideration thereof was deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair of Leacock deferred.

The commission of the Synod did meet last year according to appointment, in order to conclude upon a method for prosecuting the overture respecting the erecting a seminary of learning. The minutes of that proceeding were read, and although herein it is found, that they concluded upon calling the whole Synod together as necessary in that affair; yet the war breaking out between England and Spain, the calling of the Synod was omitted, and the whole affair laid aside for that time.*

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* The commission of the Synod met according to appointment.

Philadelphia, August 15*th*, 1739. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, John Thomson, Adam Boyd, Robert Cross, James Martin, Richard Treat.

Correspondents: Messrs. Cathcart, Alison, and Black.

Members of the commission absent: Messrs. Dickinson, Pemberton, Gillespie, Pierson, Thomas Evans, Gilbert Tennent.

Ordered, That the minutes of the Synod relating to our present meeting be read.

Several members of the commission who are now absent, being expected this evening, the commission without entering upon business, adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

16*th day, at nine of the clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Together with Messrs. David Evans and Jamison, correspondents.

Mr. Pemberton sent a letter with the reasons of his absence, which were sustained.

The affair of the overture brought in last Synod, that gave occasion for our present meeting, was taken under consideration, and after much reasoning upon it, the commission unanimously concluded to enter on said affair; but previous to any particular steps to be fallen upon in order thereto, it was agreed to ask counsel of God by appointing one of their number to pray, which was done by appointing Mr. Evans to that service. Upon which they proceeded to inquire what they should do, and because of the weight of the affair in hand, they agreed to defer the main inquiries till the afternoon; but as preliminary thereto, do judge it to be the most reasonable and probable method to accomplish the good design of said overture, to apply to the several congregations within our bounds for their concurrence and assistance in the affair, and that a letter of address be sent to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for their assistance. Accordingly Mr. Andrews was appointed to draw up the said letter to the General Assembly

Upon reading over the minutes respecting the result of the controversy between Mr. Gilbert Tennent and Mr. Cowell, Mr. Tennent moved for the revising that affair, and that the papers might be read that concern that debate. Which motion of Mr. Tennent's, after much debate about it, was put to the vote, whether it should be complied with or not, and it passed in the negative by a great majority.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

30 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M., post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The account of the fund not yet brought in.

The affair between the Synod and the brethren dissatisfied with the act of last Synod, which, according to order of yesterday, was to be brought under consideration this session, deferred till next *sederunt.*

The affair of Leacock reassumed. Whereas a matter of controversy between the people of Leacock and Pequea, was appointed last Synod to be determined by a committee, which by order of Synod, were to meet upon the place, and all the members except two that were appointed, for reasons now given and sustained, failed of attending on said affair, so that nothing was done in it, and the people of Leacock yet thinking themselves aggrieved by the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, they now moved the Synod to judge

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before mentioned, and Mr. Thomson to draw up the letter to our congregations, to be brought in next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Horâ quartâ, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Andrews and Thomson brought in the letters, according to appointment.

The affair of the overture respecting the erecting a school of learning, reassumed, and the commission, after some further consideration of it, weighing the importance of the matter, and considering the small number of members now present, together with the many preparatory letters and instructions that are necessary for such an undertaking, as going to Europe for assistance, according to the unanimous judgment of the Synod, will require, they do now with one consent judge it most advisable to defer doing any more in said affair at present, but leave it to the consideration and determination of the whole Synod, and accordingly agree to call the Synod together, to meet at Philadelphia the last Wednesday of September next, and enjoin the members present to inform their respective Presbyteries of this appointment; and that the moderator send letters to the Presbyteries of New York and New-Brunswick, ordering their attendance at the time appointed. And the commission further orders, that Messrs. Andrews, Cross, and Treat, do prepare what addresses, letters, credentials, or other instruments may be proper, against the meeting of the Synod. And further, that a letter be remitted to Dr. Colman, to be communicated to our reverend brethren in Boston, earnestly desiring their concurrence and assistance in this affair, and that said letter be inclosed in one to Mr. Pemberton, to be forwarded by him. Ordered, That the moderator preach at the opening of the Synod.

An affair relating to the people of Pilesgrove and Deerfield, was, by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, referred to the decision of the commission; and the commission having heard the representatives of said people, *pro* and *con*, and having received what light the Presbytery of Philadelphia could give in the said affair, they for some time reasoned and debated upon it, and at length came to the following resolution: That inasmuch as the inhabitants of Pilesgrove have long borne a burden, and met with great discouragements in their endeavours to have the gospel settled among them, though we cannot, however, but lament that their house for public worship, which they are about, is not to be situated more conveniently and to greater satisfaction of Deerfield; yet since the representative from the congregation of Deerfield, and the representative of Pilesgrove, seemed formerly agreed, that without detriment to either congregation, the people of Pilesgrove might build their house where they now are at work, and since the Presbytery accordingly encouraged them to build there, the commission unanimously agreed to confirm their sentence in favour of Pilesgrove. Concluded with prayer.

in that affair; and after reading some papers, and hearing all that was offered in the matter, the Synod unanimously judges as follows: That inasmuch as Leacock is a congregation by allowance of their own Presbytery, and the meeting-house erected and complained of is at as great a distance from those of Pequea as can conveniently accommodate them of Leacock, that, therefore, the new erection of Leacock shall stand, and said congregation be entitled to supplies to said meeting-house from Donegall Presbytery equal to other vacancies within their bounds.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair between the Synod and the brethren dissatisfied with the act last year, came under consideration, and the protesting brethren declaring their dissatisfaction with the proposals for accommodation that were laid before them; the Synod therefore still desiring that that unhappy difference may be accommodated, recommend it to any brethren of the Synod to consider any further expedient to that end, to be brought in the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

31 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of the fund continued.

The affair between the Synod and the protesting brethren reassumed, and an overture was brought in by one of the brethren as an expedient to accommodate the difference that has arisen and yet subsists on account of an act of last year, and much discourse was had upon it.

It was agreed by all the members, the protesting brethren as well as others, that the Synod are proper judges of the qualifications of their own members. But the protesting brethren thought the inserting that agreement into our minutes unnecessary.

The uncomfortable debate about the agreement of the Synod last year, to bring under the examination of the Synod, such persons as have had a private education in order to the sacred ministry, being reassumed, it was put to the vote whether the said agreement should be repeated or continued till some other expedient could be found that will answer the design of that agreement to the Synod's satisfaction, and it was voted that it shall continue at present.

The protesting brethren renewing their former protest against the present proceeding, the following members joined with them in their protestation, viz: Messrs. John Cross, Alexander Craighead, Robert Cummins, John Henry, James Cockran, William Emmitt, James Miller, Richard Walker, James McKoy, Robert Matthews, Daniel Henderson, Joseph Steel, Hugh Lynn, George Gillespie, and Alexander Hucheson, desired their dissent might be entered.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at three o'clock this afternoon.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

June 2d, at ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

An overture was brought in upon the two late acts in order to explain them, which is as follows: The Synod having the last year, *nemine contradicente,* come into an agreement that no minister shall preach out of the bounds of his Presbytery in any congregation, after his being warned by the Presbytery,

in whose bounds such congregation is, that his preaching there is a cause of division in the congregation, and that he is therefore to desist, which was agreed to in order to prevent divisions in our congregations: but finding that some of our brethren are now dissatisfied with that agreement, and that it is wrong interpreted and misunderstood by many of our people, as though it was calculated to prevent itinerant preaching: the Synod do now declare, that they never thought of opposing, but do heartily rejoice in the labours of the ministry in other places besides their own particular charge. And that they may not give any umbrage to the contrary, they do now repeal that agreement, and do agree that our ministers shall, in that respect, conduct themselves as though it had never been. And to obviate all misrepresentations that are like to be made of our agreement the last year, to bring such candidates of the ministry under the examination of the Synod, or the commission of the Synod, as to their proficiency in human learning, who have had a private education, the Synod declare, that they do not thereby call in question the power of subordinate Presbyteries to ordain ministers, but only assert their own right to judge of the qualifications of their own members. And though they do not deny but that such as are brought into the ministry contrary to this agreement may be truly gospel ministers, yet inasmuch as they cannot but think that agreement needful to be insisted on in order to the well-being of this part of the Church of Christ, they cannot admit them when so brought into the ministry to be members of this Synod, until they submit to the said agreement, though they do consent, that they be in all other respects and considered as ministers of the gospel, any thing that may be otherwise construed in any of our former proceedings, notwithstanding.

Two expedients for peace were proposed to answer the end of the act for preserving learning by examination for candidates, which were taken under consideration till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund continued.

The further consideration of the abovesaid overture deferred. There being two representations brought into the Synod by Mr. Blair and Mr. Gilbert Tennent, representing many defects in our ministry that are matter of greatest lamentation if chargeable upon our members: the Synod do therefore solemnly admonish all the ministers within their bounds, seriously to consider the weight of their charge, and, as they will answer it at the great day of Christ, to take care to approve themselves to God, in the instances complained of. And the Synod do recommend it to the several Presbyteries to take care of their several ministers in these particulars.

A supplication came into the Synod from the congregations of Tinnacum and Newtown respectively, desiring to be dismissed from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and to be joined to the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, and it was readily granted.

Adjourned to the fourth Wednesday of May next, then to meet at Philadelphia at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.*

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* At a meeting of the commission of the Synod,

June 3d, 1740. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Mr. John Pierson Moderator of the Synod, Messrs. John Thomson, Robert Cross, George Gillespie, and Jedidiah Andrews.

The account of the fund was brought in; and it appears before any disbursements made this year, that there was as follows:

1741.

The Synod met according to appointment,

Philadelphia, May the 27*th*, 1741. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers, members of the Presbytery of New Castle: Messrs. George Gillespie, Robert Cathcart, Charles Tennent, Francis Alison, Alexander Hucheson, Samuel Blair. Absent: Mr. Thomas Evans.

Members of the Presbytery of Lewes, ministers present: Messrs. James Martin and Robert Jamison. Absent: Messrs. Hugh Carlile, Patrick Glascow, Hugh Stevenson.

Presbytery of Philadelphia, ministers present: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, Daniel Elmer, Francis McHenry, Richard Treat, William Tennent.

New Brunswick Presbytery, ministers present: Messrs. Eleazer Wales, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent. Absent: Mr. John Cross.

Members of Donegall Presbytery present: Messrs. John Thomson, Adam Boyd, John Elder, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Cavin, Samuel Thomson, John Craig, Alexander Craighead, David Alexander.

New York Presbytery absent.

Elders present: John Richy, William McCollock, William Gray, Jonathan Fithian, Robert Porter, John Swansey, James Carr, Robert McKnight, Francis Alexander, Abednego Thomas, Alexander McKnight, John McCone, John Ramsey, William McCrey, Robert Craig, Robert Rowland, Richard Walker, David Chambers.

Mr. Pierson, the last year's moderator, not being present, Mr. Andrews opened the Synod with a sermon on Mar. ix. 24.

	£	s.	d.
Principal,	485	12	0½
Interest due,	45	4	8½
Cash,	32	10	10½
Total	£563	7	7½

Memorandum: That a bond of Mr. Paul's deed of twelve pounds, which is no part of the above sum, was remitted to his widow.

Grants from the fund by the Synod this year:

	£	s.	d.
To the Treasurer,	6	0	0
To the Janitor,	1	10	0
To Mr. Glen,	5	00	0
To Turkey,	6	00	0

A supplication was brought in by Abraham Scott and John Kirkpatrick, in the name of a party at Nottingham, requesting that they might be dismissed from the Presbytery of Donegall, for reasons therein contained. The commission having considered the affair, thought fit to remit it to the consideration of the next Synod.

Representatives from Norrington desired supplies, and the commission being desirous to do all they could for them, appointed Mr. Boyd to supply them once a quarter, and to come to them the first time the first Sabbath of August; Mr. Cowell once a quarter, beginning the first Sabbath of July; Mr. McHenry once a quarter, beginning the first Sabbath of September; and Mr. Black once a quarter, beginning the first Sabbath of November. This to be done till next Synod. The ministers in town to help them as they can.

A letter from Dr. Colman, of Boston, to the Synod was read, wherein he, in the name of the associated brethren there, assures the Synod of their readiness to concur with the Synod in their laudable proposal of erecting a school or seminary of learning in these parts. And it is ordered that Mr. Andrews write to the Doctor, and the said associated brethren on that head.

Ordered, That five pounds and ten shillings be given on a pious design.

Mr. Andrews chosen moderator, and Mr. Boyd clerk.

Adjourned till nine clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28 *day. At nine o'clock, met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Objections being made against some members sitting in Synod, the Synod entered upon the consideration of that affair, and especially in reference to Mr. Craighead, and after much discourse upon it, and a paper of Mr. Craighead's being read, the Synod deferred the further consideration of that affair till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

A supplication from Middle Octorara congregation containing charges against Mr. John Thomson, being presented and read, after much discourse upon it, the Synod agreed that Mr. Thomson have a copy of the said supplication, and that his Presbytery shall, with all possible expedition, judge of that affair.

The affair of Mr. Craighead reassumed. Mr. Craighead presented another paper, which was read, and after debating on that business, the Synod agreed that this and the former paper be perused by the Donegall Presbytery, in order to prepare for trial against to-morrow in the afternoon.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

29*th, at nine o'clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Since our last meeting it pleased God in his providence to remove by death, our dear brethren Mr. James Anderson, of the Presbytery of Donegall, and Mr. Joseph Houston, of the Presbytery of New York.

Mr. Samuel Thomson, Mr. Patrick Glascow, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Bertram were absent last year, and having given or sent reasons of their absence, are excused; as also Mr. David Evans.

Inasmuch as Mr. Stevenson has from time to time, and for years past, neglected attending on our judicatures, and also omitted his ministry without giving us any reasons for his said conduct, it is therefore agreed, that his name shall be struck out of our records, till he come before us and give an account of his proceedings.

Mr. Goold is removed out of the bounds of our Synod.

The choosing a committee, and other business for the fund, deferred.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Blair appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia; Messrs. Martin and Jamison the Presbytery book of Donegall. The Presbytery books of New York, New Brunswick, New Castle, and Lewes, are not brought.

Inquiry being made who had brought collections for the fund, it was found that there was something brought by Messrs. Gillespie, Blair, Jamison, Andrews, William Tennent, senior, Elder, Zanchy, and Samuel Thomson.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. according to appointment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Donegall, as appointed, begun their reply to Mr. Craighead's paper in several particulars, but being late it's deferred till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

30 *day. At nine o'clock, met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The above affair continued, and a great deal of discourse maintained upon it. The Synod defer the further consideration thereof.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. on Monday next. Concluded with prayer.

June 1. *At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

A protestation was brought in by Mr. Cross, read, and signed by several members, which is kept *in retentis.**

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* A Protestation presented to the Synod, June 1, 1741.

Reverend Fathers and Brethren.

We, the ministers of Jesus Christ, and members of the Synod of Philadelphia, being wounded and grieved at our very hearts, at the dreadful divisions, distractions, and convulsions, which all of a sudden have seized this infant church to such a degree, that unless He, who is King in Zion, do graciously and seasonably interpose for our relief, she is in no small danger of expiring outright, and that quickly, as to the form, order, and constitution, of an organized church, which hath subsisted for above these thirty years past, in a very great degree of comely order and sweet harmony, until of late—we say, we being deeply afflicted with these things which lie heavy on our spirits, and being sensible that it is our indispensable duty to do what lies in our power, in a lawful way, according to the light and direction of the inspired oracles, to preserve this swooning church from a total expiration; and after the deliberate and unprejudiced inquiry into the causes of these confusions which rage so among us, both ministers and people, we evidently seeing, and being fully persuaded in our judgments, that besides our misimprovement of, and unfruitfulness under, gospel light, liberty, and privileges, that great decay of practical godliness in the life and power of it, and many abounding immoralities: we say, besides these, our sins, which we judge to be the meritorious cause of our present doleful distractions, the awful judgment we at present groan under, we evidently see that our protesting brethren and their adherents, were the direct and proper cause thereof, by their unwearied, unscriptural, antipresbyterial, uncharitable, divisive practices, which they have been pursuing, with all the industry they were capable of, with any probability of success, for above these twelve months past especially, besides too much of the like practices for some years before, though not with such barefaced arrogance and boldness:

And being fully convinced in our judgments, that it is our duty to bear testimony against these disorderly proceedings, according to our stations, capacity, and trust reposed in us by our exalted Lord, as watchmen on the walls of his Zion, we having endeavoured sincerely to seek counsel and direction from God, who hath promised to give wisdom to those that ask him in faith, yea, hath promised his Holy Spirit to lead his people and servants into all truth, and being clearly convinced in our consciences, that it is a duty called unto in this present juncture of affairs:

Reverend Fathers and Brethren, we hereby humbly and solemnly protest, in the presence of the great and eternal God, and his elect angels, as well as in the presence of all here present, and particularly to you, Reverend Brethren, in our own names, and in the names of all, both ministers and people, who shall adhere to us, as follows:

1. We protest that it is the indispensable duty of this Synod, to maintain and stand by the principles of doctrine, worship, and government, of the Church of Christ, as the same are summed up in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Directory, composed by the Westminster Assembly, as being agreeable to the word of God, and which this Synod have owned, acknowledged, and adopted, as may appear by our synodical records of the years 1729, 1736, which we desire to be read publicly.

2. We protest that no person, minister or elder, should be allowed to sit and vote in this Synod, who hath not received, adopted, or subscribed, the said Confessions, Catechisms, and Directory, as our Presbyteries respectively do, according to our last explication of the adopting act; or who is either accused or convicted, or may be convicted before this Synod, or any of our Presbyteries, of holding or maintaining any doctrine, or who act and persist in any practice, contrary to any of those doctrines, or rules contained in said Directory, or contrary to any of the known rights of Presbytery, or orders made or agreed to by this Synod, and which stand yet unrepealed, unless, or until he renounce such doctrine, and being found guilty, acknowledge, confess, and profess his

Upon this it was canvassed by the former protesting brethren, whether they or we are to be looked upon as the Synod. We maintained that they had no right to sit whether they were the major or minor number. Then they motioned that we should examine this point, and that the major number was

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sorrow for such sinful disorder, to the satisfaction of this Synod, or such inferior judicatory as the Synod shall appoint or empower for that purpose.

3. We protest that all our protesting brethren have at present no right to sit and vote as members of this Synod, having forfeited their right of being accounted members of it for many reasons, a few of which we shall mention afterwards.

4. We protest that, if, notwithstanding of this our protestation, these brethren be allowed to sit and vote in this Synod, without giving suitable satisfaction to the Synod, and particularly to us, who now enter this protestation, and those who adhere to us in it, that whatsoever shall be done, voted, or transacted by them, contrary to our judgment, shall be of no force or obligation to us, being done and acted by a judicatory consisting in part of members who have no authority to act with us in ecclesiastical matters.

5. We protest that, if, notwithstanding this our protestation, and contrary to the true intent and meaning of it, these protesting brethren, and such as adhere to them, or support and countenance them in their antipresbyterial practices, shall continue to act as they have done this last year, in that case we, and as many as have clearness to join with us, and maintain the rights of this judicatory, shall be accounted in nowise disorderly, but the true Presbyterian Church in this province; and they shall be looked upon as guilty of schism, and the breach of the rules of Presbyterial government, which Christ has established in his church, which we are ready at all times to demonstrate to the world.

Reverend and dear Brethren, we beseech you to hear us with patience, while we lay before you as briefly as we can, some of the reasons that move us thus to protest, and more particularly, why we protest against our protesting brethren's being allowed to sit as members of this Synod.

1. Their heterodox and anarchical principles expressed in their Apology, pages twenty-eight and thirty-nine, where they expressly deny that Presbyteries have authority to oblige their dissenting members, and that Synods should go any further, in judging of appeals or references, &c. than to give their best advice, which is plainly to divest the officers and judicatories of Christ's kingdom of all authority, (and plainly contradicts the thirty-first article of our Confession of Faith, section three, which these brethren pretend to adopt,) agreeable to which is the whole superstructure of arguments which they advance and maintain against not only our synodical acts, but also all authority to make any acts or orders that shall bind their dissenting members, throughout their whole Apology.

2. Their protesting against the Synod's act in relation to the examination of candidates, together with their proceeding to license and ordain men to the ministry of the gospel, in opposition to, and in contempt of said act of Synod.

3. Their making irregular irruptions upon the congregations to which they have no immediate relation, without order, concurrence, or allowance of the Presbyteries or ministers to which congregations belong, thereby sowing the seeds of division among people, and doing what they can to alienate and fill their minds with unjust prejudices against their lawfully called pastors.

4. Their principles and practice of rash judging and condemning all who do not fall in with their measures, both ministers and people, as carnal, graceless, and enemies to the work of God, and what not, as appears in Mr. Gilbert Tennent's sermon against unconverted ministers, and his and Mr. Blair's papers of May last, which were read in open Synod; which rash judging has been the constant practice of our protesting brethren, and their irregular probationers, for above these twelve months past, in their disorderly itinerations and preaching through our congregations, by which, (alas! for it,) most of our congregations, through weakness and credulity, are so shattered and divided, and shaken in their principles, that few or none of us can say we enjoy the comfort, or have the success among our people, which otherwise we might, and which we enjoyed heretofore.

5. Their industriously persuading people to believe that the call of God whereby he calls men to the ministry, does not consist in their being regularly ordained and set apart to that work, according to the institution and rules of the word; but in some invisible

the Synod. They were found to be the minor party, and upon this they withdrew. After this the Synod proceeded to business.

Overtured, That every member of this Synod, whether minister or elder, do sincerely and heartily receive, own, acknowledge, or subscribe, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Larger and Shorter Catechisms, as the con-

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motions and workings of the Spirit, which none can be conscious or sensible of but the person himself, and with respect to which he is liable to be deceived, or play the hypocrite; that the gospel preached in truth by unconverted ministers, can be of no saving benefit to souls; and their pointing out such ministers, whom they condemn as graceless by their rash judging spirit, they effectually carry the point with the poor credulous people, who, in imitation of their example, and under their patrociny, judge their ministers to be graceless, and forsake their ministry as hurtful rather than profitable.

6. Their preaching the terrors of the law in such a manner and dialect as has no precedent in the word of God, but rather appears to be borrowed from a worse dialect; and so industriously working on the passions and affections of weak minds, as to cause them to cry out in a hideous manner, and fall down in convulsion-like fits, to the marring of the profiting both of themselves and others, who are so taken up in seeing and hearing these odd symptoms, that they cannot attend to or hear what the preacher says; and then, after all, boasting of these things as the work of God, which we are persuaded do proceed from an inferior or worse cause.

7. Their, or some of them, preaching and maintaining that all true converts are as certain of their gracious state as a person can be of what he knows by his outward senses; and are able to give a narrative of the time and manner of their conversion, or else they conclude them to be in a natural or graceless state, and that a gracious person can judge of another's gracious state otherwise than by his profession and life. That people are under no sacred tie or relation to their own pastors lawfully called, but may leave them when they please, and ought to go where they think they get most good.

For these and many other reasons, we protest, before the Eternal God, his holy angels, and you, Reverend Brethren, and before all here present, that these brethren have no right to be acknowledged as members of this judicatory of Christ, whose principles and practices are so diametrically opposite to our doctrine, and principles of government and order, which the great King of the Church hath laid down in his word.

How absurd and monstrous must that union be, where one part of the members own themselves obliged, in conscience, to the judicial determinations of the whole, founded on the word of God, or else relinquish membership; and another part declare, they are not obliged and will not submit, unless the determination be according to their minds, and consequently will submit to no rule, in making of which they are in the negative.

Again, how monstrously absurd is it, that they should so much as desire to join with us, or we with them, as a judicatory, made up of authoritative officers of Jesus Christ, while they openly condemn us wholesale; and, when they please, apply their condemnatory sentences to particular brethren by name, without judicial process, or proving them guilty of heresy or immorality, and at the same time will not hold Christian communion with them.

Again, how absurd is the union, while some of the members of the same body, which meet once a year, and join as a judicatory of Christ, do all the rest of the year what they can, openly and above board, to persuade the people and flocks of their brethren and fellow members, to separate from their own pastors, as graceless hypocrites, and yet they do not separate from them themselves, but join with them once every year, as members of the same judicatory of Christ, and oftener, when Presbyteries are mixed. Is it not most unreasonable, stupid indolence in us, to join with such as are avowedly tearing us in pieces like beasts of prey?

Again, is not the continuance of union with our protesting brethren very absurd, when it is so notorious that both their doctrine and practice are so directly contrary to the adopting act, whereby both they and we have adopted the Confession of Faith, Catechisms and Directory, composed by the Westminster Assembly?

Finally, is not continuance of union absurd with those who would arrogate to themselves a right and power to palm and obtrude members on our Synod, contrary to the minds and judgment of the body?

In fine, a continued union, in our judgment, is most absurd and inconsistent, when it is so notorious, that our doctrine and principles of church government, in many points, are not only diverse, but directly opposite. For how can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Reverend Fathers and Brethren, these are a part, and but a part, of our reasons why

fession of his faith, and the Directory, as far as circumstances will allow and admit in this infant church, for the rule of church order. Ordered, That every session do oblige their elders, at their admission, to do the same. This was readily approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Messrs. Cross, Thomson, Martin, Alison, Catheart, Boyd, and the moderator, ministers; and Robert McKnight, William McCulloch, Robert Rowland, and James Kerr, elders, appointed a committee for the fund, and any other business the Synod shall recommend to them.

Messrs. Thomson, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Robert Cross, Alison, Boyd, Martin, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing, with elders, if they have occasion to meet, and that any five of the ministers be a quorum.

It is reported that Mr. John Craig was, after the usual trials, ordained since last Synod, and that he subscribed the Westminster Confession of Faith, according to order of Synod.

Ordered, That an account of the fund be brought in before the Synod break up.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet to-morrow morning at eight of the clock, to bring in the account of the fund. And the Synod to meet at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

2d day. At ten o'clock, according to appointment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee for the fund met, and overtured, that pursuant to the supplication of the undertakers of the meeting-house at Wilmington, viz: Capt. Chambers and Capt. Hucheson, representing the difficulties that attend de-

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we protest as above, and which we have only hinted at, but have forborne to enlarge on them, as we might, the matter and substance of them are so well known to you all, and the whole world about us, that we judged this hint sufficient at present, to declare our serious and deliberate judgment in the matter; and as we profess ourselves to be resolvedly against principles and practice of both anarchy and schism, so we hope that God, whom we desire to serve and obey, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose ministers we are, will both direct and enable us to conduct ourselves, in these trying times, so as our consciences shall not reproach us as long as we live. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered, and let them that hate him fly before him, but let the righteous be glad, yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. And may the spirit of life and comfort revive and comfort this poor swooning and fainting church, quicken her to spiritual life, and restore her to the exercise of true charity, peace, and order.

Although we can freely, and from the bottom of our hearts, justify the Divine proceedings against us, in suffering us to fall into these confusions for our sins, and particularly for the great decay of the life and power of godliness among all ranks, both ministers and people, yet we think it to be our present duty to bear testimony against these prevailing disorders, judging that to give way to the breaking down the hedge of discipline and government from about Christ's vineyard, is far from being the proper method of causing his tender plants to grow in grace and fruitfulness.

As it is our duty in our station, without delay, to set about a reformation of the evils whereby we have provoked God against ourselves, so we judge the strict observation of his laws of government and order, and not the breaking of them, to be one necessary mean and method of this necessary and much to be desired reformation. And we doubt not, but when our God sees us duly humbled and penitent for our sins, he will yet return to us in mercy, and cause us to flourish in spiritual life, love, unity, and order, though perhaps we may not live to see it, yet this testimony that we now bear, may be of some good use to our children yet unborn, when God shall arise and have mercy on Zion.

Ministers: Robert Cross, John Thomson, Francis Alison, Robert Cathcart, Richard Zanchy, John Elder, John Craig, Samuel Caven, Samuel Thomson, Adam Boyd, James Martin, Robert Jamison.

Elders: Robert Porter, Robert McKnight, William McCulloch, John McEuen, Robert Rowland, Robert Craig, James Kerr, Alexander McKnight.

fraying the charges of that meeting-house, the sum of ten pounds be given out of the fund for the aforesaid use, and that the Synod lend to said use upon sufficient security, the sum of thirty pounds, if said sum can be had next fall, free from interest for three years, and that the same be repaid at ten pounds a year. And in case no money come into the Synod's fund, that the Synod agree to pay the interest of fifty pounds for five years if required.

	£	s.	d.
To the Treasurer, - - - -	6	00	0
To the Janitor, - - -	1	10	0
To Mrs. Glen, - - - -	3	00	0
To Mrs. Paul, - - -	1	00	0

Which overture was read and approved.

The Synod taking to their serious consideration, that God's judgments are abroad in the earth, and that the war in which we are engaged, the threatening scarcity of grain by the discouraging prospect of our crops, and the mournful, melancholy divisions among us, who profess to be the followers of the Prince of Peace, do loudly call for it, that we should keep a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, to implore the merciful and compassionate regard of our good God in these difficulties, and that it be left to each Presbytery to appoint the time as it will best suit within their respective bounds. Agreed, *nemine contradicente.*

Ordered, That Messrs. Thomson, Thomas Evans, and Alison, defend the protestation in print if need be.

Ordered, That Mr. Thomson supply at Norrington the first Sabbath of June, Mr. Andrews the first Sabbath of July, Mr. Boyd the first Sabbath of August, Mr. Cross the first Sabbath of September, Mr. Alison the first Sabbath of October, Mr. Elder the first Sabbath of November, Mr. McHenry the first Sabbath of December, Mr. Zanchy the first Sabbath of March, Mr. Andrews the first Sabbath of April, and Mr. Cross the first Sabbath of May.

Adjourned to the fourth Wednesday of May next, then to meet at Philadelphia, at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1742.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment.

May 26th, 1742. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

New York Presbytery: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Ebenezer Pemberton, John Pierson, John Nutman, Simon Horton, Silas Leonard, Azariah Horton. Absent: Messrs. Walter Wilmot, Aaron Burr, Nathaniel Hubbel, Isaac Chalker, Samuel Pumry.

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Thomson, Adam Boyd, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Caven, Samuel Black, Samuel Thomson, Alexander McDowell. Absent: Messrs. William Bertram, John Elder, John Craig.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Cathcart, Francis Alison. Absent: Messrs. Thomas Evans, Hugh Conn, and John Orme.

Lewes Presbytery. Absent: Messrs. James Martin, Robert Jamison, Hugh Carlile.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, David Evans, Daniel Elmer, David Cowell, Francis McHenry, John Guild, Samuel Evans.

Elders: Messrs. David Whittit, Nathaniel Hazard, John Ball, Timothy Whittit, John Hally, Andrew Gray, Thomas Hope, Walter Caruth, George

Davison, James McTire, William Lindsay, Samuel Steel, William Gray, John Cross, Jonathan Fithian, Samuel Hart, David Griffith, Thomas Stidmore.

Mr. Dickinson chosen moderator, and Mr. Alison clerk.

Mr. Andrews, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 2 Cor. iv. 5.

The absence of New York Presbytery last year, considered, and the excuses of some of the members sustained.

Since our last it hath pleased God to remove by death, the Rev. Mr. Henry Hook, of the Presbytery of Lewes.

Ordained since our last, Mr. Azariah Horton, missionary for the Indians, in the Presbytery of New York; Mr. John Guild and Mr. Samuel Evans, in the Presbytery of Philadelphia; and Mr. Alexander McDowell in the Presbytery of Donegall.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 27th at nine o'clock, met, and post preces sederunt qui supra.

Upon a motion made by the moderator, that our Synod should hold a conference with the Brunswick brethren that they rejected last year, in order to accommodate the difference and make up that unhappy breach, it is agreed, that Messrs. Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Cross, Andrews, Thomson, Cathcart, David Evans, and Alison, meet with these brethren, and try all methods consistent with gospel truth, to prepare the way for healing the said breach. Agreed that the conference be held at the usual place of the Synod's meeting, at three in the afternoon, and that the Synod adjourn till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

28th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the Synod be resolved into an interloquitur of ministers and elders, to manage the conference with the ejected brethren, who are allowed, if they see cause, to bring with them the ministers that they ordained, that were never allowed to be ministers of this Synod, and all their respective elders.

After a great deal of time spent to no purpose, the interloquitur found that all attempts for a coalition were vain and fruitless, and therefore it is agreed to adjourn till three o'clock, afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Robert Jamison is now present and his absence excused.

The Synod entered upon the affair complained of by the ejected members, and the question put for the managing said affair was, who should be the judges of the case? The ejected members would submit the business to the consideration of none as judges, but such as had not signed the protest last year. And the protesting brethren answered to the point: That they, with the members that had adhered to them, after ejecting said members, were the Synod, and acted as such in the rejection, and in so doing they only cast out such members as they judged had rendered themselves unworthy of membership, by openly maintaining and practising things subversive of their constitution, and therefore would not be called to account by absent members, or by any judicature on earth, but were willing to give the reasons of their conduct to their absent brethren, and to the public to consider or review it.

Ordered, That the Synod, ministers and elders, meet at nine in the morning in an interloquitur.

Adjourned till eleven o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

29th day, at 11 *o'clock, A. M. met ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The interloquitur having entered upon some business without coming to a conclusion, the Synod is adjourned till Monday morning at ten of the clock.

Concluded with prayer.

31 *day, at ten o'clock, met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Pemberton, Pierson, Thomson, Martin, Boyd, Cathcart, Samuel Evans, McHenry, Alison, and the moderator, be a committee for the fund, and the commission of the Synod for the following year; and Messrs. Gray, John Steel, Hazard, and William Linsey, be joined with the said committee in the affair of the fund, and that the ministers of the commission have elders with them if they have occasion to meet.

A protest was given in by some members of our Synod, which is as follows, viz:

To the reverend Synod now sitting in Philadelphia: We the subscribers, in our own and in the name of all that we shall see meet to join with us, look upon ourselves obliged in the most public manner, to declare our opinions with respect to the division made in our Synod the last year, by a protest that was delivered in by several of our members.

First. We declare against the excluding the Presbytery of New-Brunswick and their adherents, from the communion of the Synod by a protest, without giving them a previous trial, as an illegal and unprecedented procedure, contrary to the rules of the gospel and subversive of our excellent constitution.

Secondly. We declare and protest against the conduct of our brethren, the last year's protestors, in refusing to have the legality of their said protest tried by the present Synod.

Thirdly. We therefore declare and protest, that these members of the New-Brunswick Presbytery, and their adherents, that were excluded by the last year's protest, are to be owned and esteemed as members of this Synod, until they are excluded by a regular and impartial process against them, according to the methods prescribed in sacred Scripture, and practised by the churches of the Presbyterian persuasion.

Fourthly. We protest against all passages in any of the pamphlets which have been lately published in these parts, which seem to reflect upon the work of divine power and grace, which has been carrying on in so wonderful a manner in many of our congregations, and declare to all the world, that we look upon it to be the indispensable duty of all our ministers to encourage that glorious work with their most faithful and diligent endeavours. And in like manner, we protest and declare against all divisive and irregular methods and practices, by which the peace and good order of our churches have been broken in upon.

This is what our duty to God, and our regard to the peace and prosperity of his church oblige us to protest and declare, and we desire it may be recorded in the minutes of the Synod *in perpetuam rei memoriam.*

Jonathan Dickinson,	Azariah Horton,
John Pierson,	Nathaniel Hazard,
Ebenezer Pemberton,	David Whitehead,
Simon Horton,	Silas Leonard,
Daniel Elmer,	Timothy Whitehead.

Philadelphia, May 29, 1742.

[This is in the first article *protestatio contra factum ;* for they were excluded by a vote of the Synod if they refused to give satisfaction for the points complained of, and upon this they withdrew.]

I, the subscriber, do hereby desire, that it may be inserted in the Synod's minute book, that I judge it an open infringement on the rights of society, and particularly on our rights as Presbyterians, for any absent members to pretend to a right to call the body to an account, and judge of the legality of proceedings in acts, resolutions, and conclusions made in their absence. Though I firmly believe that it is the duty of such a body to submit such resolutions and conclusions to a review of the next Synod ; and though I look on it as giving up some of our rights, yet it is my earnest desire, and what I insist on, that the merits of the cause for which last year's Synod excluded the Brunswick brethren and adherents, be fairly tried by this present Synod, in order to manifest the justness of said proceedings.

FRANCIS ALISON.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May, at three o'clock, afternoon, and then to meet at Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.*

1743.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment,

May 25th, 1743. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of New York Presbytery : Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Ebenezer Pemberton, John Pierson, Aaron Burr, John Nutman. Absent : Messrs. Walter Wilmot, Nathaniel Hubbel, Silas Leonard, Azariah Horton, Simon Horton, Samuel Pumry.

New Castle Presbytery : Messrs. Robert Cathcart, Francis Alison, Robert Jamison. Absent : Messrs. Hugh Conn, John Orme, and Hugh Stevenson.

Donegall Presbytery : Messrs. John Thomson, Adam Boyd, Samuel Black, John Elder, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Caven, Alexander McDowell, Hamilton

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* The commission of the Synod met at four in the afternoon.

Upon a supplication of the people of Apoquinimy, to be joined to the Presbytery of New Castle, and Mr. Jamison representing that their Presbytery was so weak that they could not meet upon business, it was agreed that the Presbytery of Lewes do join with that of New Castle.

The Presbytery of New Castle having applied for advice to the Synod, with relation to Mr. John Steel, a probationer from Ireland, who offered himself to our care as a candidate for the sacred work of the ministry, but was under some difficulty with relation to a marriage promise claimed by a young woman in Ireland, as his testimonials set forth, and by reason of some steps taken by him in his marriage in this country : The commission finding in all things, that his conduct at home and in this country, has been fair and unblamable, those things excepted, do advise the Presbytery of New Castle to defer taking him on trials till December next. And in the mean time, desire that both the young man and the Presbytery, write to the Presbytery of London-Derry, in Ireland, to see if any further light may be obtained in said affair.

Upon the supplication of several of the back inhabitants of Virginia, desiring that the commission of the Synod would draw up a supplication to be sent to the General Assembly in Scotland or their commission, begging the favour that they may send over a probationer or minister, that they think suitably qualified for that place, to take the pastoral charge of said people. It is agreed that Messrs. Andrews and Cross write to them by the first suitable opportunity.

The Synod having given orders last year to some of their number, to answer such writings as might be needful to set the present debate in a true light ; notwithstanding we think it is the Synod's business to see the Printer's accounts cleared, yet the commission recommend it earnestly to every Presbytery, and to every person, to be careful to bring in the price of the books disposed of in their bounds or by themselves, in order to defray said expense, before they proceed to contribute any thing further out of the fund.

Concluded with prayer.

Bell, John Hindman. Absent: Messrs. William Bertram, Samuel Thomson, John Craig.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, Daniel Elmer, David Cowell, Francis McHenry, and Samuel Evans. Absent: Messrs. David Evans and John Guild.

Elders: Messrs. Alexander Walker, James Donnel, Matthew Atchinson, Daniel Henderson, George Davison, William Stevenson, John McEwen, Arthur Patterson, William Gray, John Ogden, Samuel Hart, and David Griffith.

Mr. Dickinson, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon on 1 Cor. i. 10.

Mr. David Cowell chosen moderator, and Mr. Alison clerk.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26 day at ten o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Leonard and the Hortons' absence excused. Mr. Chalker is removed out of our bounds.

Mr. Hugh Stevenson absent. This affair to be considered.

Messrs. Thomas Evans and James Martin, of the Presbytery of New Castle, removed by death since our last, and likewise Mr. Joel Evans, probationer.

Since our last, Mr. Bell and Mr. Hindman were ordained by the Presbytery of Donegall.

Messrs. Bertram, Samuel Thomson, and Craig are excused for their absence. Mr. David Evans excused for his absence.

A paper being brought in by Thomas Cookson, Esq. one of his majesty's justices, for the county of Lancaster, in the name of the Governor, to be laid before and considered by us, the Synod agrees to defer all other business, and set aside the common methods of their proceeding, to consider it, and orders it to be read. The above mentioned paper, with an affidavit concerning it, being read in open Synod, it was unanimously agreed: That it is full of treason, sedition, and distraction, and grievous perverting of the sacred oracles to the ruin of all societies and civil government, and directly and diametrically opposite to our religious principles, as we have on all occasions openly and publicly declared to the world; and we hereby unanimously, with the greatest sincerity, declare that we detest this paper, and with it all principles and practices that tend to destroy the civil or religious rights of mankind, or to foment or encourage sedition or dissatisfaction with the civil government that we are now under, or rebellion, treason, or any thing that is disloyal. And if Mr. Alexander Craighead be the author we know nothing of the matter. And we hereby declare, that he hath been no member of our society for some time past, nor do we acknowledge him as such, though we cannot but heartily lament that any man that was ever called a Presbyterian, should be guilty of what is in this paper. And we order, that a committee be appointed to draw up an address to the governor on this occasion, and that the committee be Messrs. Dickinson, Pemberton, Alison, and the moderator, and bring it into the Synod for approbation.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. met, ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Stevenson's affair deferred.

The address was brought in and approved. Ordered, That the ministers of the Synod wait on the governor and present this address, together with a copy of our minute with relation to this affair.

Mr. Elder's absence last year is excused.

Mr. Jones was ordained by the New York Presbytery since our last.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Thomson, Boyd, Cathcart, Samuel Evans, McHenry, Alison, and the moderator, be a committee for the fund, and the commission of the Synod for the following year; and that William Gray, Arthur Patterson, and James Donnel, be joined with the said committee in the affair of the fund: and that the ministers of the commission shall endeavour to bring elders with them if they have occasion to meet, and that six of them with the moderator, shall be a quorum.

Ordered, That Mr. McDowell and Mr. Bell revise the Presbytery Book of Philadelphia. And that all our Presbyteries punctually bring their books, having all neglected to do so, Philadelphia Presbytery only excepted.

Inquiry being made who had this year brought money to the fund, it was found that Mr. Alison, Mr. Bell, Messrs. Andrews and Cross, and Mr. Cowell, had brought something.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, at ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Hugh Stevenson was taken under consideration, upon which the Synod came into the following resolution: The Presbytery of New Castle having suspended Mr. Stevenson on account of some scandals alleged against him, and his neglecting to appear before them to vindicate himself, notwithstanding he was called upon to do it, and having referred the further consideration of this affair to the Synod, the Synod having considered their reference, do look upon the conduct of the New Castle Presbytery as regular, and continue Mr. Stevenson under suspension till he shall be presbyterially cleared from these scandals alleged against him, and desire the New Castle Presbytery to take the first opportunity they conveniently can, to inquire into Mr. Stevenson's conduct, in order to a final determination.

Adjourned till four o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Some papers were given in to the Synod from some of the congregation at Abington. The consideration of them deferred.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

28th day. At ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the Abington papers be read; and the persons that brought them were referred back to their own Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

On Monday morning the meeting of the Synod was deferred till four o'clock, P. M. that some proposals of peace and agreement might be prepared and sent to the Brunswick Presbytery.

30 day. Met at four o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

An overture was brought by the Presbytery of New York, which was ordered to be read, and was as followeth, viz:

At a Presbytery convened at Newark, May 15, 1743.

An overture from the Presbytery of New York, to be proposed to the Synod of Philadelphia, at their next meeting.

The Presbytery taking into consideration the melancholy divisions that have of late obtained in the Synod, to the great dishonour of God, the scandal of our holy profession, the prejudice of our religious interests, and the too great encouragement of those dangerous errors and delusions which are making such a progress among us, think it our duty to contribute all we can towards healing these breaches, and promoting the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, and do therefore propose:

1. That inasmuch as the Presbytery cannot see how the excluding the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, and those other ministers that join with them by a protestation, without a particular hearing, and deliberate vote of the Synod, formed upon such a distinct hearing of the case, can be agreeable to the laws of Christ, or any rules of discipline that have ever been known among any churches of our profession: we therefore propose that the said protestation be withdrawn, and those members peaceably take their place in the Synod as formerly.

2. Whereas it is of greatest necessity that the education of our candidates for the ministry be well regulated, and that our former difference upon that subject be healed, we propose that all such, who for the future shall be privately educated with a design for improvement in the ministry of the gospel, shall submit to the former agreement of the Synod in that case, or else be sent to one of the colleges in New England, and accept of such a station there as they are found qualified for, and that they continue there at least one year, and obtain their degree of bachelor of arts. And in case there should be any pious and promising youths that are privately educated for the ministry, who cannot well bear the charge of continuing so long at the college, they shall, upon the commendation of their respective Presbyteries, and the approbation of the Synod, or commission of the Synod, have such allowances from the Synod for their support at the college, as the Synod or their commission shall think proper, and so much of the income of the fund as is sufficient shall be appropriated to that purpose.

3. Whereas there have been differences among us with respect to itinerant preaching, with the consequences of it, we propose that there be an united agreement of the Synod, that all our pulpits be open to those ministers that are in our communion, and we unanimously resolve to invite each other to preach in our respective parishes as occasion offers. And for any minister to refuse another minister the use of his pulpit when regularly applied to, and to continue in that refusal from time to time, shall be looked upon as an unbrotherly practice, tending to division and separation among us. Provided always, that the minister refusing his pulpit as aforesaid, has not such reason for his conduct as shall be approved by the Presbytery, or Synod, or commission of the Synod. And that there may be no schism or confusions maintained in our congregations, it be proposed that all our ministers shall be obliged, that they will not for the future promote or encourage any divisions or separations, neither by setting up separate meetings in any of our congregations, nor by any methods whatsoever endeavouring to alienate the affections of the people from their minister; but that every one of us shall do what we can to assist one another, and strengthen each other's hands in the work of the Lord. And every contravention of this article shall be looked upon as just matter of censure either by Presbytery or Synod.

4. It is also proposed that, if any of our ministers either really have or suppose they have just matter of complaint against any of their brethren in the ministry within our bounds, with respect either to his doctrine, manner of preaching, diligence in his discharge of the more public or private parts of his ministerial duties, or with respect to his conduct or conversation, such minister shall first in a kind, tender, and affectionate manner, particularly make known

the matter of his complaint to such of his brethren in a private conference. And if these endeavours fail of desired success, he shall put into his hands a written copy of his complaints, with a citation to answer them before his Presbytery, or before the Synod, or commission of the Synod, as the complainant shall think fit.

5. It is also proposed, that all former matters of difference and debate in the Synod, be now entirely buried in oblivion, and that each minister of the Synod do from this time treat one another with the same intimate love, kindness, and respect, as if such differences had never been. This article not being to be understood as excluding any of our ministers from reasoning either publicly or privately in a brotherly, or a Christian manner, against any point of doctrine which they suppose erroneous or dangerous.

6. The Presbytery considering the absolute necessity of union and good agreement in a religious society, since a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand, do earnestly pray, that this or some other plan of accommodation be come into at this meeting of the Synod. But if our hopes in that matter should prove abortive, and no methods can be obtained, it is proposed that this Synod do unitedly agree that another Synod be erected, by the name of the Synod of New York, and that any of our members shall have liberty to join themselves to which of the two Synods they shall think fit; and in order to our communion one with another, and to consult the general interest of religion in these parts, it is proposed that there be two correspondents sent yearly from each Synod to the other.

EBENEZER PEMBERTON, Moderator.

These inserted in the next year's minutes.

Some remarks upon the above overture were read; and after some consideration it was put to vote, whether this overture was to be accepted as a plan of accommodation or not, and it was unanimously voted in the negative.

A paper was upon this given in by Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, in his own name, and in the names of Messrs. Ebenezer Pemberton, John Pierson, and Aaron Burr, having previously declared that they complain of no unfriendly or unbrotherly treatment from the Synod with relation to themselves, but that their conduct in this affair may be liable to misrepresentations, which said paper is as follows:

As I look upon myself to be a member of the Synod of Philadelphia, and have a continued right to sit and act in the same as such, so I look upon the New Brunswick Presbytery, and those other brethren that adhere to them, and are therefore shut out of the Synod on that account, to be truly members of this Synod as myself, or any others whatsoever, and have a just claim to sit and act with us. I cannot, therefore, at present see my way clear to sit and act as though we were the Synod of Philadelphia, while the New Brunswick Presbytery, and the other members with them, are kept out of the Synod in the manner they now are.

A proposal of agreement and union between us and the brethren of New Brunswick was sent to those brethren by Mr. Aaron Burr, which is as followeth, viz.

Proposals made to the New Brunswick brethren, in order to their being admitted to take their places in the Synod, upon a Scripture foundation.

Forasmuch as we are informed that the New Brunswick brethren are willing and desirous of reconciliation and union with the Synod, and to know on what terms this may be obtained: That the said brethren may be fully persuaded that we have no delight in division for its own sake, but on the contrary, are sincerely desirous of union and peace upon just and reasonable terms, so that upon our cordial agreement there be a foundation laid, that, through

God's blessing, may prevent the havock and destruction of the church threatened by our common enemies. Therefore we propose:

1. That as they desire to be received and treated as members of our Synod they will submit to the determinations and conclusions of our judicatures, even in those cases wherein they are negatives in giving their votes, and so allow a determination to be by the majority, or else no longer plead a right of membership; and that they renounce their principles delivered in their Apology, especially that whereby they declare that Presbyteries and Synods have no right to make any agreements, or come to any determinations by votes that shall bind any members who do not give their consent to those conclusions or determinations. For without this recantation they can never be members of this Synod, seeing they put in a claim for arbitrary power to destroy and overturn all our agreements, and to despise and disregard our censures, as they have already professedly done, in licensing and ordaining so many men for the work of the ministry.

2. If they profess they will use all endeavours to secure a learned ministry, we desire that they testify this by desisting from licensing or ordaining men for the work of the ministry, who have not complied with the Synod's agreement, or the alternative proposed in the last year's conference with these brethren, and that they give up all those persons that they have heretofore licensed or ordained in opposition to our public agreement, to be examined and tried by the Synod whether they have suitable ministerial qualifications, or that they will not maintain ministerial communion with any of them for the future, who refuse to be examined by the Synod, or who, upon examination, are found deficient, until they give suitable satisfaction.

3. That for the future they will desist from either acting or preaching, or sending their missionaries within the bounds of our Presbyteries, or fixed pastoral charges as heretofore; that they will not encourage new separate societies in congregations as heretofore, nor supply with preaching the societies they have made or occasioned, among the people under our care, but declare that all such practices are of pernicious tendency, and inconsistent with the Presbyterian plan.

4. That they will not publicly nor privately endeavour to diminish the character of any minister as graceless, unconverted, or unworthy of his office, until he be tried by a proper judicature and censured; and that they claim no right to judge of men's spiritual estates towards God, so as to determine whether they be gracious or graceless, if sound in the faith, and of a gospel life and conversation, and that they condemn all such practices.

5. That they renounce all such tenets or doctrines that have been advanced in Mr. Tennent's Nottingham sermon, which are contrary to our Presbyterian plan and subversive of gospel order, and a floodgate to let in divisions and disorders into the church, such as an allowance to church members to guess at the spiritual state of their pastors, and upon this guess, without further trial, to leave them as graceless and unconverted; their asserting an inward call to the ministry, in opposition and contradiction to the outward call, or ordaining to the gospel ministry, and all who maintain them can be no members of a Presbyterian society or church, because they take all government out of the hands of a Synod or Presbytery, and give it to any person that hath ignorance and impudence enough to bring God's house into confusion.

6. That they acknowledge that too many of them have been guilty in all these points, and that notwithstanding whatever zeal and intention to advance a work of grace they might have been influenced by, yet now they are convinced that these practices have had a dreadful tendency to promote and spread the divisions and confusions that perplex and disturb this church.

7. We propose that, if they have any ground of complaint against any of

our members, with respect to their doctrine, their conversation, or diligence in the ministry, that they shall be welcome to table the charge against them in a proper judicatory, whether they comply with these terms or not; and that, if they satisfy us in these points, and accept their seats in our Synod, all other grounds of complaint shall be removed, either by public trial, or such other method as they and we in conjunction shall determine, and will best promote the glory of God, and the good of his church. And we declare that if all or any of these brethren accept these terms, or any other that we and they can devise or come to, that will lay a foundation to secure these important rights of societies, a learned and pious ministry, and to prevent errors and divisions, in a way agreeable to God's word, and the Presbyterian constitution, we are heartily willing to receive them; and we desire that they may give us their answer to these heads as soon as they can conveniently.

These proposals were sent in an extra-judicial way to the Brunswick brethren, upon reading of which in open Synod, it was agreed that these proposals were reasonable, in order to open a way toward an accommodation and interview between these brethren and us. And to these we received an answer by Mr. William Tennent, junior, which is as followeth:

Upon a paper sent to us from the ministers that protested against us, proposing certain terms of union, this conjunct meeting of the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and New Castle does judge that there can be no regular methods of proceeding towards the compassing a stated union between them and us, until their illegal protest be withdrawn; yet so they and we may both stand upon an equal foot in the regular trial of the differences between us. That their paper contains sundry misrepresentations and unreasonable demands, and that we have several charges against them to be satisfied in before we could come into a settled union with them.

Upon reading our minutes, it was proposed, that as the protestation of the New York brethren seems to complain of the conduct of this Synod, in the year 1741, ordered, that the protestation delivered in that year be entered into our minutes; which protestation is accordingly to be found at the end of the minutes for this year.

A paper in answer to the New York brethren's protestation, being read in open Synod, it was unanimously agreed, that it be kept *in retentis.*

Upon a supplication brough by Mr. Alison, desiring that Mr. McDowell be joined to the Presbytery of New Castle, in order to answer the repeated supplications of Elk-River and White-Clay Creek, ordered, that he be joined to it, and that they supply Nottingham for a year.

Messrs. Andrews and Cross did write to the General Assembly in Scotland, in favour of the back inhabitants of Virginia, as was desired.

Ordered, that the committee for the fund meet to-morrow, at eight o'clock, and the Synod at ten. Concluded with prayer.

31 *day, at ten o'clock, A. M. according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.* (Some excepted who were gone home.)

The committee have not brought in the account of the fund; Ordered, They settle it now and bring it against the next meeting.

Agreed to remit a bond of Mr. Houston's, dated July 25th, 1740, in favour of his widow and her family.

A proposal was made to write to the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, and lay before them the low and melancholy condition of the infant church, both for want of probationers to supply our numerous vacancies, and also for want of a suitable encouragement for ministers in new settlements, and intreat them both to send ministers and probationers to us, and to allow them

some small support out of their fund for some years in new places. And that they be pleased to enable us in some measure, or by some method, to erect a seminary or school for educating young men for these ends among ourselves. This was agreed to, and ordered, that Messrs. Cross, Andrews, and Thomson, write a letter to the Assembly, and let them know our circumstances.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of Philadelphia regard the people of Abington, and supply there as oft as they can conveniently, if they find that their case requires it.

Ordered, That Messrs. Alison and McDowell write to some gentlemen in Virginia, acquainting them with our application to the General Assembly of Scotland, and begging their interest to further that design.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Cathcart, and the moderator, wait on the governor, and present the address.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at two o'clock, P. M.

Disbursements from the fund allowed per the committee for the year 1743, as followeth, viz.

	£	s.	d.
To Archibald McMullen for services done, -	2	10	0
To the Treasurer, - - - - - -	6	00	0
To the Janitor, - - - - - - -	1	10	0
To Mrs. Glen, - - - - - - -	5	00	0
To Mrs. Hook, - - - - - - -	3	00	0

The sum total of the fund before any disbursements, as computed by the committee, 1743, five hundred and seventy pounds, sixteen shillings and seven pence.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next, at three o'clock, P. M. and then to meet at Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1744.

The Synod met at Philadelphia according to appointment.

May 23*d*, 1744. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Minister of New Castle Presbytery: Mr. Alexander McDowell. Absent—

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Thomson, Adam Boyd, John Craig, John Elder. Absent—

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Robert Cross, Daniel Elmer, Samuel Evans.

New York Presbytery absent.

Elders: Alexander Montgomery, James Read, Hugh Rippey, William Wilson, William Johnston, William Gray, Edward Lummis, and James Abraham.

Mr. Andrews opened the Synod by a sermon on Ezek. iii. 17. Mr. Cowell, the last year's moderator, being absent.

Many of the members being absent, and expected to be present to-morrow, it is concluded that the Synod adjourn to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning, before they enter upon business. Concluded with prayer.

24*th day at nine o'clock. Met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

And upon calling the roll the following members present who were absent yesterday, viz: Messrs. George Gillespie, Robert Cathcart, and Francis Alison, of the New Castle Presbytery. And that Presbytery reports, that since our last they have ordained to the work of the ministry Mr. Timothy Griffith and Mr. John Steel, they having passed the usual trials and adopted the

Westminster Confession and Catechisms as the confession of their faith, according to order of the Synod in that case provided. They also inform us, that pursuant to a call drawn up by the people of Snow-Hill, Buckingham, and the Ferry, in Worcester in Maryland, and with the Presbytery's concurrence, sent to the Presbytery of Paisley in North Britain, the Rev. Mr. James Scougal accepted the said call. And having produced sufficient testimonials of his piety, learning, prudence, soundness in the faith, blameless conversation and ordination by them, was admitted as a member of the Presbytery of New Castle. And the Synod admitted these brethren into membership.

Of Donegall Presbytery, Mr. Black is now present. Absent: Messrs. Samuel Thomson, Richard Zanchy, Bertram, Hindman, and Samuel Caven. (Mr. Bell was suspended by said Presbytery.)

Present now of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. David Evans and Francis McHenry.

Elders of the ministers absent yesterday: Messrs. John McMichael, William McCulloch, Thomas James, David Patterson, Samuel Hart, James Kerr.

Mr. McHenry chosen moderator, and Mr. McDowell clerk.

We find that upon reading the last year's roll, Mr. Robert Jamison is removed by death since our last, as also Mr. Hugh Stevenson.

Mr. Samuel Pumry's absence now excused, on account of bodily indisposition.

Mr. David Evans gave reasons for his last year's absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Dickinson, Pierson, Nutman, John Thomson, Boyd, Black, Samuel Evans, Cathcart, Alison, Gillespie, and the moderator, be the committee for the fund and the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year. And Messrs. William Gray, Samuel Hart, William McCulloch, William Wilson, elders, be joined with them in the affair of the fund; and that every minister endeavour to have an elder with him if the Synod's commission have occasion to meet; and that five ministers and the moderator be a quorum of the commission.

Ordered, That Messrs. Boyd and Griffith revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia; and Messrs. Alison and Cathcart the Presbytery book of Donegall, and that these books be delivered the next *sederunt*.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of New Castle, not having their book now, do put it in order and bring it to be revised by the Synod the next year.

Inquiry being made who had brought money to the fund, it was found that Messrs. Andrews, Cross, McHenry, and Craig, had brought some.

Upon reading our last year's minutes, we find an overture presented by the Presbytery of New York, and that remarks upon it were read in Synod, but these remarks not being entered in the Synod book, it is now ordered, that they be inserted here in this place. They are as follows:

Some short hints by way of remark on an overture designed to be laid before the Synod of Philadelphia by the brethren of the Presbytery of New York, submitted by the said brethren to the consideration of the other members of the Synod in a private extra-judicial way.

On the introduction remark: How far the following particulars of the overture are conducive to the good end proposed, will be best known by a particular consideration of them.

On article first remark: Notwithstanding of what is alleged by our brethren, we are still of the mind that the exclusion of the New Brunswick brethren by the protestation mentioned, is sufficiently justified by the reasons specified in the said protestation; which reasons are further strengthened by the conduct of the said brethren ever since. And were it needful to produce them, there are not wanting precedents of this method of procedure in Pres-

byterian churches, yea and in civil judicatures; and therefore we think it altogether inconsistent with duty and a good conscience, to withdraw said protest or recede from it. And further, it is our judgment, that the only sensible expedient in order to reunion, in the present circumstances is, that the New Brunswick, &c. would let us know under their hand, how far they will or can comply, to give the Synod satisfaction for the offences complained of, by acknowledging their past misconduct, and by giving satisfactory security against the fears of the like offences for the future.

On the second article remark: If the Brunswick brethren would once give such satisfaction to the Synod for their past conduct, in opposition to our act of Synod, relating to the examination of candidates for the ministry, it seems not unlikely that we might agree either in the amendment thereof, or in instituting an equivalent for the future. But if no reparation be made for the damages done by their past conduct in opposition to said act, we think it vain to talk of substituting an equivalent for the future. And, therefore, we also would desire to know from these brethren under their hands, what satisfaction they are willing to give the Synod on this head.

On article the third: Our judgment in respect of being obliged to open our pulpits to itinerants, and to invite them to preach in them, *sub poena* of being esteemed unbrotherly, and promoters of division and separation, is so far different and opposite to our New York brethren's judgment, that we verily believe, that such a constitution or order as our brethren talk of, is of most visible and obvious tendency to promote division and separation, and every thing that is unbrotherly and uncharitable. Neither is it enough that there are no endeavours to set up separate meetings in our congregations, but also that all these already set up, be obliged to return to their pastors and congregations, or else be deemed and dealt with as disorderly. And that the New Brunswick brethren, &c. shall take such methods as the Synod shall prescribe, to persuade those whom they have influenced to separate, to return again to their respective folds and pastors. In fact we think the proposal has a visible, plain, and native tendency to advance the mischief it pretends to prevent, and to prevent and destroy the good it pretends to advance. We think that to give any minister a right to preach in any brother's pulpit contrary to his inclination, without presbyterial order for that purpose, is the direct way to breed and foment divisions, and quench brotherly love among ministers. Where love and esteem actually subsist there is no need for such right to be pleaded by the itinerant; and when jealousy, and want of love and esteem do prevail, such an order would undoubtedly increase them. Besides, we think that itinerant preaching, properly so called, (i. e. when preaching is the principal end for travel,) except by express order of Presbytery, hath no foundation in the word of God. Even Paul and Barnabas had a particular order for their travelling among the Gentiles. And therefore we propose that it still be left as it always hath been, to the discretionary agreement of the ministers concerned, when one minister shall preach in another's pulpit, and that no minister be allowed to travel abroad to preach, i. e. for preaching's sake, without an actual or virtual order from his respective Presbytery, together with the concurrence of the Presbytery where he preaches.

On article fourth remark: This article is for substance the same with what hath been in force and practice in all well regulated Presbyterian churches; saving that the order of process is inverted or perverted, inasmuch as it puts it in the accuser or prosecutor, to bring things *per saltum*, before a superior jurisdiction. It is therefore our judgment, that according to the natural order of things, and the known practice of all Presbyterian churches in the world, that every person or case be tried by or before its next or lowest judicature to which he or it is subject.

On the fifth remark: This article we approve on supposition, that union on a good foundation were obtained; otherwise we think this article, if in force, would enjoin what is not only unreasonable but also impossible in the nature of the thing, viz: That the Brunswick brethren and we should be sincere in treating one another with the same intimate love, kindness, and respect, as if such differences had never been, while yet we have received no satisfaction for the past most public and injurious treatment, which we have suffered at their hands. And to enjoin it, we think would be in the consequence of it, foolish, wicked, and utterly inconsistent with the principles of rational self-preservation, and the trust reposed in us by our exalted Lord. Inasmuch as it would be to put it in the power of those who have been tearing our bowels, and the bowels of Christ's church under our care these years past, to persist without resistance in the same practice, and to act the same cruelty over again. While we have not any reasonable scriptural evidence of their repentance for past injuries, nor security against the like treatment for the future. Besides that it is contrary to the general Scripture rules of dealing with scandalous offenders. Them that sin rebuke before all. Count him, viz: the obstinate offender as an heathen or publican, and avoid the authors of division as persons who serve not the Lord Christ but their own bellies.

On article sixth remark: To give into this article would be to approve of and confirm schism by our Synodical authority. For seeing the reason for erecting such a new Synod, is because we cannot live in union and concord; surely one of the parties at least, must be certainly and really in the fault; and for our Synod to approve of a faulty party, separating on the score of contention, is evidently to ratify schism by Synodical authority; besides, this would infer our consenting to the perpetuating a continual temptation to build up the interest of our own respective parties or Synods respectively, in opposition to one another, i. e. in opposition to the opposite Synod, which we ourselves have erected and approved. Therefore we cannot in conscience comply with it. But if our New York brethren, &c. shall now see cause, contrary to our judgment and inclination, to divide themselves from us, and to erect themselves into a new separate body, as it is not in our power to hinder them, though we cannot in conscience approve of their so doing, yet we hope, that by the grace of God, we shall sincerely and conscientiously endeavour to cherish and cultivate a truly Christian and charitable disposition towards them, as far as such a contentious separation will allow, and as far as we can attain unto, in opposition to the remains of the corruption and uncharitableness, which we have reason to acknowledge doth too much and too often prevail in and over us all. Provided always, that our brethren shall not hereby think that we will bind ourselves from vindicating our conduct, with respect to this breach in the most public manner, so that the Reformed churches and impartial world may have an opportunity to judge in the affair.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. McDowell's affair referred to further consideration.

The time of meeting of the committee for the fund deferred.

Messrs. Andrews and Cross wrote to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, according to appointment.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have supplied the people of Abington divers times, according to last year's appointment.

Messrs. Alison and McDowell report, that they have writ to some gentlemen in Virginia, acquainting them of our application to the General Assembly of Scotland, as appointed last year.

Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Cathcart, &c. report, that they waited on the Governor with the address, according to appointment.

Mr. Bell materially appealed from a judgment of suspension laid on him by the Presbytery of Donegall, and requested the Synod would appoint a committee to meet at Donegall on that affair. And it is ordered, that Messrs. John Thomson, Robert Cross, Adam Boyd, Samuel Thomson, Hindman, Gillespie, McDowell, and Griffith, be a committee to meet there the second Wednesday of June next, at twelve o'clock, to hear and determine that affair, and that Mr. Bell continue under suspension till the committee meet. And it is further determined that a copy of this minute be sent to the congregation of Donegall as soon as possible, and that Mr. Black or Mr. Elder take care to deliver the said copy, to be communicated to the members, that they prepare evidences and be ready for a trial of that affair. And it is ordered, that Mr. Gillespie open the committee with a sermon.

A representation from many people of North Carolina, was laid before the Synod showing their desolate condition, and requesting the Synod to take their estate into consideration, and petitioning that we would appoint one of our number to correspond with them. Ordered, That Mr. John Thomson correspond with them.

Ordered, That Messrs. David Evans, Samuel Evans, and Griffith, write to Wales, representing the state of our church, and to desire a probationer may be sent from them to us if they possibly can.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at ten o'clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

New Castle Presbytery desiring Mr. McDowell might be entirely loosed from Donegall and joined to them; and Mr. McDowell desiring the advice of the Synod to determine him in this affair, it was unanimously voted that he should be joined to New Castle Presbytery, and the congregation of Nottingham is continued and wholly joined with New Castle Presbytery.

The affair of the fund deferred.

A letter from Mr. Hutchinson, containing his opinion of the proceedings of the Synod and New-Brunswick party, and advices to the Synod, was read before us. And the Synod judges, that so far as his advices appear agreeable to the word of God, they have walked agreeable to them, and hope they will endeavour still to make conscience of doing so. Ordered, That Mr. Alison write to Mr. Hutchinson an answer to his letter.

The minutes of a committee held at the great valley, November 16th, 1743, by a private agreement between the Presbyteries of Philadelphia, New Castle, and Donegall, were laid before us, showing that the said committee considered the necessity of using speedy endeavours to educate youth for supplying our vacancies. But the proper method for this end cannot be so well compassed without the Synod; they refer the further consideration of the affair to that reverend body, but agree that in the mean time a school be opened for the education of youth. And the Synod now approve that design, and take the said school under our care, and agree upon the following plan for carrying on that design:

1. That there be a school kept open where all persons who please may send their children and have them instructed gratis in the languages, philosophy, and divinity.

2. In order to carry on this design, it is agreed that every congregation under our care, be applied to for yearly contributions, more or less, as they can afford, and as God may incline them to contribute, until Providence open a door for our supporting the school some other way.

3. That if any thing can be spared besides what may support a master

and tutor, that it be employed by the trustees for buying books and other necessaries for said school, and for the benefit of it, as the trustees shall see proper. And Mr. Alison is chosen master of said school, and has the privilege of choosing an usher under him to assist him; and the said Mr. Alison is exempted from all public business, save only attending church judicatures, and what concerns his particular pastoral charge. And the Synod agree to allow Mr. Alison twenty pounds per annum, and the usher fifteen pounds.

The further consideration of this affair deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund deferred.

The affair of the school resumed.

4. Agreed that Messrs. Jedidiah Andrews, Cross, and Evans, junior, of Philadelphia Presbytery; and John Thomson, Black, and Boyd, of Donegall; and Gillespie and Griffith, Cathcart, and Steel, and McDowell, of New Castle Presbytery, be appointed trustees for the management of the affairs of the said school, for this year; and as many more as can conveniently, may meet with them. And it's ordered, that said trustees meet on the third Wednesday of September next, and that any five of them be a quorum, and that they appoint three of their number to meet at three other times in the year at said school. These trustees are to inspect into the master's diligence in, and method of, teaching; consider and direct what authors are chiefly to be read in the several branches of learning; to examine the scholars from time to time, as to their proficiency, and apply the money procured from our people as ordered above, and to what other uses they find proper; and in sum, to order all affairs relating to said school as they see expedient, and be accountable to the Synod, making report of their proceedings and the state of the school yearly. And ordered, that Messrs. Thomson, Griffith, and Steel, and McDowell, be the four that shall meet first at said school, and that on the last Tuesday of June next.

The Rev. Mr. Dorsius, pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Bucks county, laid a letter before us from the deputies of North and South Holland, wherein they desire of the Synod an account of the state of the High and Low Dutch churches in this province, and also of the churches belonging to the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia, and whether the Dutch churches may be joined in communion with said Synod, or if this may not be, that they would form themselves into a regular body and government among themselves. In pursuance of which letter the Synod agree, that letters be wrote in the name of the Synod, to the deputies of these Synods in Holland, in Latin, and to the Scotch ministers in Rotterdam, giving them an account of the churches here, and declaring our willingness to join with the Calvinist Dutch churches here, to assist each other as far as possible in promoting the common interests of religion among us, and signifying the present great want of ministers among the High and Low Dutch, with desire that they may help in educating men for the work of the ministry. And the Synod ordered, that Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Evans, junior, and the moderator, do write said letters.

A paper from the New Brunswick party was presented to us by Mr. Blair, the consideration of which is deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, at nine o'clock, post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the fund deferred.

The Synod took under consideration the paper sent to us yesterday by Mr. Blair, from the New Brunswick party, demanding a part of the fund belonging to this Synod may be allowed them. By which demand we find that they discover no intention to endeavours for peace, and to heal the lamentable divisions that prevail in our distressed church. And as we look on that party, made up partly of those who have by their conduct forfeited their right to membership among us, and of consequence to all the privileges thereof, and partly of those who never belonged to our Synod, and of consequence have no more right to any privileges whatsoever appertaining to the Synod, than any other whatsoever who will pretend thereunto without any colour of reason or equity; and therefore, on the whole, we judge their demand herein to be highly unreasonable and unjust, and not to be complied with. Approved, *nemine contradicente.*

Ordered, That a copy of the above minute be signed by the moderator, and sent to Mr. Gilbert Tennent, moderator of the New Brunswick party; which accordingly was done by the janitor.

Ordered, That every minister recommend it to their respective congregations, to contribute yearly toward defraying the expenses of their respective elders in attending on the Synod.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet here at three o'clock this afternoon.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next, at three o'clock, *post meridiem.* Concluded with prayer.

1745.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment,

May 22d, 1745. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of New York Presbytery, ministers: Messrs. Dickinson, Pierson, and Pemberton. Absent: Messrs Nutman, Burr, Hubbell, Leonard, Azariah Horton, and Simon Horton.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Andrews, Cross, David Evans, Elmer, McHenry, Cowell, Samuel Evans. Absent: Mr. Guild.

Of Donegall Presbytery, ministers: Messrs. Boyd, Thomson, Zanchy. Absent: Messrs. Bertram, Black, Elder, Samuel Thomson, Caven, Hindman, Craig.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Gillespie, Cathcart, Alison, McDowell, Scougal, Griffith, Steel.

Elders: William Gray, Thomas Harris, William Ramsey, John Parry, William Ewen, William Wallace, William Nill, Robert Mackey, William Lindsay, Samuel James, James Donnal, Nathaniel Hazard, Brice Innis.

Our Rev. Brethren, Mr. Pumry, of Newtown, and Mr. Wilmot, of Jamaica, on Long Island, are deceased since our last.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on Prov. xi. 30, by Mr. McHenry, last year's moderator.

Mr. Robert Cathcart chosen moderator, and Mr. McDowell clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

23d day. At nine o'clock the Synod met, and post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Cowell's and Mr. Zanchy's absence last year excused, for reasons given.

Ordered, That Messrs. Dickinson, Pierson, Pemberton, Andrews, Black, Zanchy, Cross, McHenry, Gillespie, Alison, McDowell, and the moderator, be the committee for the fund, and the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing; and that William Gray, Robert McKnight, William Ewen, and Nathaniel Hazard, elders, be joined with them, and that each member always endeavour to have an elder with him in case the commission of the Synod have occasion to meet, and that any five ministers, with the moderator, be a quorum of the commission.

Ordered, That Mr. Steel and Mr. Zanchy revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia, and that it be given them the next *sederunt* for that end.

New York, Donegall, and New Castle books being not here now, Ordered, That each of these Presbyteries put their books in order and bring them to be revised the next year.

Messrs. Dickinson, Pierson, and Pemberton, in the name of the New York Presbytery, and by a commission from them, desire that the Synod appoint a committee to confer with them to try whether an overture can be prepared, removing any grounds of dissatisfaction or difference between them and the Synod.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Alison, Thomson, Boyd, Gillespie, McDowell, Samuel Evans, and the moderator, meet with them as a committee for that purpose, at three o'clock, and as many other members as please may attend.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Andrews and Samuel Evans had brought some. And it was recommended to the other members that had brought none, carefully to observe the order in that case made for the future.

The committee appointed by the Synod to hear and determine Mr. Bell's affair, met according to appointment; and the reading of their minutes is deferred till next *sederunt.*

The order that Messrs. David Evans, Samuel Evans, and Griffith, write to Wales, not being yet fulfilled, is continued.

Upon reading the minutes relating to the school, it's ordered, that such as have raised no collections for the school as yet, should immediately apply to their congregations for contributions; and that all the members do so again between this and our next, and that such as supply in vacant congregations endeavour to obtain collections from them also, for supporting the school, and that each Presbytery see that those they appoint to supply vacancies do so.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Samuel Evans, Boyd, Black, Griffith, and Steel, be a committee and trustees for the school, and meet at said school the second Tuesday of October and March.

The letters were wrote to Holland according to appointment.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the committee appointed to hear and try Mr. Bell's affair were read, and the committee's conduct in that affair approved, in deposing him from the ministerial office upon the grounds contained in these minutes following.*

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* The Editor has omitted the minutes of this committee, as they embrace a large body of testimony in Mr. Bell's trial, which, properly speaking, constitutes no part of the minutes. It has always been usual to exclude such matters from synodical records, and even in case of trial before Presbyteries the testimony is usually kept on file.

The committee appointed to confer with the New York brethren not having got an overture prepared to bring in to the Synod, the whole Synod was resolved into a committee to consider that affair.

After much consultation had in this affair, they appoint again that Messrs. Thomson, Alison, Griffith, Steel, and McDowell, be a committee to prepare a plan for union, against our next *sederunt:* any three of them to be a quorum to do this.

Adjourned till five o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

The Synod, after waiting long for the committee appointed at our last to prepare a plan, understanding that they have not prepared said plan, do adjourn till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day. At nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to draw a plan, &c., being inquired at, answer that they have drawn a plan to be now laid before the Synod. Previous to reading it, some inquired at their New York brethren, whom of the New Brunswick brethren they alleged to be members, whether all that are now of that party, or only such of them as enjoyed membership before, and they declared they account only such as have been members and had their seats, to be now members, and no others.

The overture drawn up by the committee was read twice, and the vote put, whether it was a proper plan for accommodation to be now proposed, and it was voted proper to propose it, and it is as follows:

I. The glory of God and the advancement of Christ's kingdom, by the persuading souls to embrace the Lord Jesus on gospel terms, and by preserving peace, truth, and good order in the churches, ought to be the grand design of all Christians, and of the ministers of the gospel in particular. But to our great concern and sorrow, the disorderly intrusions into the pastoral charges of ministers, and surmises that were raised to blacken their characters as carnal and unconverted; the bold violation of our synodical acts and regulations, and the new method of itinerant preaching where there is a stated gospel ministry, hath, in a great measure, marred this noble design, by rending the churches of Christ, and filling the minds of people with uncharitable opinions of one another.

To check these evils prevailing by means of some claiming to themselves a privilege, under pretence of extraordinaries, to trample under foot the rights of mankind, to destroy all pastoral relation, and to lay aside, at least for a season, that form of government and discipline that was practised and used in our Presbyterian churches, a number of the Synod of Philadelphia protested against such illegal, disorderly practices in the year 1741. And being wearied with fruitless attempts to redress these delusive, unscriptural methods of proceeding, determined to withdraw from Synodical communion, unless such as were guilty of such practices gave proper satisfaction according to gospel rules. The majority of the Synod then present, made this protest their act, and declared that those brethren should either give such satisfaction or withdraw from membership, upon which they chose to withdraw.

This method of procedure was complained of next year, as contrary to the method of proceeding in our churches, by some members that were absent when this separation was made. Upon which it was proposed that the whole affair should be reviewed by the Synod then met, and if any thing was found illegal, it should be redressed. But these brethren could find clearness to do nothing, till these disorderly brethren who withdrew, should again be allowed to take their seats as members, which the majority of the Synod could not comply

with. Upon which they entered a declaration against the method of proceeding the year before. At our next Synod meeting, they proposed methods to heal the breach between those brethren who withdrew and the Synod; which occasioned the Synod to send them proposals of peace, which they rejected, and still continued their divisive practices of counteracting the Synod's regulations, and crumbling of congregations to pieces, erecting altar against altar, to the great scandal of religion and ruin of vital piety. Those brethren from the Presbytery of New York, who were dissatisfied at the method by which that party stand excluded, having on this occasion laboured to have their own scruples removed, and at the same time to have peace and unity restored among all that ever were members of the Synod; all the Synod now met, heartily concur with them in this noble undertaking, if it can be obtained in such a method as may and will maintain sound doctrine, and preserve the peace and good order of the church.

In order to accomplish this, these brethren proposed it as an expedient to remove their scruples and heal all our divisions, that every person that is or has been a member, shall now voluntarily subscribe the essential agreements on which our Synod formerly was established, and which are the general approved agreements of our churches. And as we think that a subscription of these articles will be a renouncing disorder and divisive practice, and will, when obtained, lay a foundation for maintaining peace, truth, and good order, which was what was desired in the protest, by which the Brunswick brethren stand excluded; we, therefore, in compliance with the request of these brethren, and in order to remove all scruples, propose that all that are now or ever have been members of this Synod, shall subscribe the following fundamental articles and agreements as their acts, and all who will do so shall be members of this Synod.

II. That in all prudential acts for the regular management of the affairs of the church of God among us, every member shall either actively concur or peaceably submit to, and not counteract such things as are determined by the majority, as being founded upon God's word; or if any do declare they have not freedom of conscience to comply, they shall withdraw and no more be acknowledged as members of this Synod, unless they afterwards find clearness and so return and comply.

III. That if any member suppose he has reason of complaint against any of his brethren for unsound doctrine, or irregularities of life, or unfaithfulness in his pastoral office, he shall proceed in a Christian way according to the rules of God's word, and our known methods of discipline, and shall not in public or private spread his surmises, offences, or scandals, without proceeding as aforesaid; or else be accounted guilty of unchristian conduct, and liable to censure. Accordingly we look upon such practices to be contrary to the gospel, and of pernicious tendency to the church of Christ.

IV. That no member of this Synod shall preach in the congregation of another brother without judicial appointment, or being invited by his brother to preach for him. And whoever acts contrary shall be deemed guilty of unbrotherly treatment and divisive practice, and be censured accordingly; and the same way, no Presbytery shall invade the charge and rights of other Presbyteries. And all erections within the bounds of regulated congregations, that have been or shall be set up by such itinerant preaching and divisive practices, shall be deemed contrary to the peace and good order of this church, and consequently shall not be maintained or supported by any member belonging to us.

V. We agree, that none who have not heretofore enjoyed membership in this Synod, shall be admitted thereto without submitting to the manner of admission determined by our former acts; and such as may and shall be provided in

that case, and complying with these general articles now agreed upon. And all such as upon proper trial shall be duly qualified with respect to learning, soundness in the faith, and a gospel conversation, shall, upon agreeing to these articles, and submitting to our method of church government, be cordially admitted to Synodical communion.

VI. We agree that each member of this Synod shall keep a day of public and solemn fasting, and thereupon confess and bewail the prevailing evils of infidelity, profaneness, the untenderness and barrenness of professors, and the decay of religion in general; and particularly the debates, divisive practices, uncharitable censures, and unbrotherly treatment that have torn and divided the church of Christ in these parts, to the dishonour of God, the hurt of practical piety, the offence and scandal of the weak, and the hardening the wicked, and the opening the mouths of the profane; and deprecate the divine displeasure, and implore the blessing of God upon this and all other proper means for the advancement of true and undefiled religion, and the maintaining and propagating the great truths of the gospel, and the peace, unity, and increase of this infant church.

The brethren of New York Presbytery immediately answered, they would not accept this plan, nor be united with us upon it; and therefore as being commissioned by New York Presbytery to transact in this affair, they desire that a copy of this overture may be given them to carry to their Presbytery.

Propose to the Synod that it should be mutually agreed, that they be allowed with the consent of this body, to erect another Synod, under the name of the Synod of New York. This they desire to do with the consent of this body, that they may not be thought to set up and act in opposition to this, and that there may be a foundation for the two Synods to consult and act in mutual concert with one another hereafter, and maintain love and brotherly kindness with each other.

The Synod appoint Messrs. Thomson, Alison, Griffith, and McDowell, to prepare an answer to this proposal, and bring it in to the Synod the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till Monday morning at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, ten o'clock, A. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to draw up an answer to the proposal of the New York brethren, brought in one accordingly, which was considered, and after much discourse upon it, was approven as it here follows: The unhappy divisions which have subsisted among us for some years, cannot but deeply affect all that wish the welfare of Zion; and it particularly affects us, that some of our brethren of New York do not at present see their way clear to continue in Synodical communion with us. And though we judge they have no just ground to withdraw from us, yet seeing they propose to erect themselves into a Synod at New York, and now desire to do this in the most friendly manner possible, we declare, if they or any of them do so, we shall endeavour to maintain charitable and Christian affections toward them, and show the same upon all occasions by such correspondence and fellowship, as we shall think duty, and consistent with a good conscience.

Adjourned till two o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At two o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

A letter from a gentleman in Virginia, with a printed charge given by the governor of that colony to the grand jury, was laid before the Synod; by which it appears that the government of that colony is highly provoked by the conduct of some of the new party who have preached there, and therefore the Synod

judge it necessary to send an address to that governor, informing him of the distinction between this Synod and that separated party, that so their conduct may not be imputed to us, nor provoke that government to deny us the liberties and favours we have enjoyed under it: Therefore, the Synod appoints Messrs. Cross, Thomson, Alison, and Griffith, to be a committee to draw up said address against the next *sederunt.**

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* We have procured a copy of the charge above alluded to, from the American Weekly Mercury, published in Philadelphia, August, 1745, and placed in the Philadelphia Library, which we subjoin for the gratification of the reader.—EDITOR.

"The charge of the Honourable William Gooch, Esq., Lieutenant Governor and commander in chief of the colony and dominion of Virginia, delivered to the gentlemen of the grand jury, at the capital in Williamsburg, on Thursday the 18th of April, 1745.

"Without taking any notice of the ordinary matters and things you are called to attend, and sworn to make inquisition for, I must, on this occasion, turn to your thoughts and recommend to your present service, another subject of great importance, which, I thank God, has been unusual, but I hope will be most effectual; I mean the information I have received of certain *false teachers* that are lately crept into this government; who, without orders or licenses, or producing any testimonial of their education or sect, professing themselves ministers under the pretended influence of *new light*, *extraordinary impulse*, and *such like* fanatical and enthusiastical knowledge, lead the innocent and ignorant people into all kinds of delusion; and in this frantic and profane disguise, though such is their heterodoxy, that they treat all other modes of worship with the utmost scorn and contempt, yet, as if they had bound themselves by an oath to do many things against the religion of the blessed Jesus, that pillar and stay of the truth, our reformed church, to the great dishonour of Almighty God, and the discomfort of serious Christians, they endeavour to make their followers believe that salvation is not to be obtained in her communion.

"As this denunciation, and, if I am rightly advised, in* words not decent to repeat, has been by one of them publicly affirmed, and shows what manner of spirit they all of them are of, in a country hitherto remarkable for uniformity in worship, and where the saving truths of the gospel are so constantly inculcated; I did promise myself, that either their preaching would be in vain, or that an insolence so criminal should not long be connived at.

"And therefore, gentlemen, since these workers of a deceitful work, blaspheming our sacraments, and reviling our excellent liturgy, are said to draw disciples after them, and we know not whereunto this separation may grow, but may easily foretell into what a distracted condition, by longer forbearance, this colony will be reduced; we are called upon by the rights of society, and what I am persuaded will be with you at least as prevailing an inducement, by the principles of Christianity, to put an immediate stop to the devices and intrigues of these associated schismatics; who having, no doubt, assumed to themselves the apostasy of our weak brethren, we may be assured there is not anything so absurd but what they will assert, nor any doctrines or precepts so sacred but what they will pervert and accommodate to their *favourite theme*, railing against our religious establishment, for which in any other country, the British dominions only excepted, they would be very severely handled.

"However, not meaning to inflame your resentment as we may, without breach of charity, pronounce, that it is not liberty of conscience, but freedom of speech they so earnestly prosecute; and we are very sure they have no manner of pretence to any shelter under the acts of toleration, because, admitting they have had regular ordination, they are by these acts obliged, nor can they be ignorant of it, not only to take the oaths, and with the test to subscribe, after a deliberate reading of them, some of the articles of our religion, before they presume to officiate, but, that in this indulgent grant, though not expressed, a covenant is intended, whereby they engage to preserve the character of conscientious men, and not to use their liberty for a cloak of maliciousness.

"So that I say, allowing their ordination, yet, as they have not, by submitting to these essential points, qualified themselves to gather a congregation, or, if they had, in speaking all manner of evil against us, have forfeited the privilege due to such compliance, insomuch that they are entirely without excuse, and their religious profession is very justly suspected to be the result of jesuitical policy, which also is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.

* That we worship the devil, and are damned.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, Thomson, Alison, and Samuel Evans, be a committee to draw up a declaration against the present disorders and divisive practices that prevail in the church against the next *sederunt.*

Ordered, That every minister who has been ordered to let money belonging to the Synod, and take bonds for it in their own name, shall now give a declaration of trust to the Synod. And agreed, that no member shall hereafter be allowed to borrow any money from the Synod.

Some young men offering themselves to examination according to our acts in that case, agreed that the whole Synod resolve itself into a committee, and immediately enter upon said examination at Mr. Cross's house.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

28th day at ten o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The address to the governor of Virginia was brought in and approved, and is as follows:

To the Honourable William Gooch, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of the colony of Virginia, &c. The humble address, &c.:

May it please your Honour: The favourable acceptance which your Honour was pleased to give our former address, and the countenance and protection which those of our persuasion have met with in Virginia, fills us with gratitude, and we beg leave on this occasion in all sincerity to express the same. It very deeply affects us to find, that any who go from these parts, and perhaps assume the name of Presbyterians, should be guilty of such practices, such uncharitable, unchristian expressions, as are taken notice of in your Honour's charge to the grand jury. And in the mean time it gives us the greatest pleasure, that we can assure your Honour, these persons never belonged to our body, but are missionaries sent out by some, who by reason of their divisive and uncharitable doctrines and practices, were in May, 1741, excluded from our Synod, upon which they erected themselves into a separate society, and have industriously sent abroad persons whom we judge ill qualified for the character they assume, to divide and trouble the churches. And, therefore, we humbly pray, that while those who belong to us and produce proper testimonials, behave themselves suitably, they may still enjoy the favour of your Honour's countenance and protection. And praying for the divine blessing on your person and government, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves,

May it please your Honour,
Your Honour's most obliged,
most obedient, and most humble servant.
Signed in the name and per order of the Synod,
ROBERT CATHCART, Moderator.

May 28, 1745.

"I must, as in duty bound to God and man, charge you in the most solemn manner, to make strict inquiry after these seducers; and if they or any of them are still in the government, by presentment or indictment, to report them to the court, that we, who are in authority under the Defender of our Faith, and the appointed guardians to our constitution in church and state, exercising our power in this respect for the protection of the people committed to our care, may show our zeal in the maintenance of the true religion; not as the manner of some is, by violent oppression, but in putting to silence, by such method as our laws direct, the calumnies and invectives of these bold accusers, and in dispelling, as we are devoutly disposed, so dreadful and dangerous a combination.

"In short, gentlemen, we should deviate from the pious path we profess to tread in, and should be unjust to God, to our king, to our country, to ourselves, and to our posterity, not to take cognizance of so great wickedness, whereby the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is turned into lasciviousness."

The committee appointed to draw the declaration, not having prepared it yet, ordered, that they bring it in against the next *sederunt*. And the committee meet on the affair of the fund.

Adjourned to Mr. Andrews's house, at two o'clock, afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

At two o'clock met at Mr. Andrews's house as appointed.

The committee appointed to meet at Mr. Cross's house yesterday, P. M. met accordingly, and after due examination of the young men that offered themselves, in the languages and several parts of philosophy, who were David Thom, John Hamilton, and Hector Alison, they were all three approved.

Ordered, That the clerk give them a copy of this minute as a certificate.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next at three o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1746.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, at nine of the clock, A. M.

May 9, 1746. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Andrews, Cross, McHenry, Samuel Evans. Absent: Messrs. David Evans, Elmer, Cowell, and Guild.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Samuel Thomson, and Black. Absent: Messrs. John Thomson, Zanchy, Elder, Caven, Craig, and Hindman.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Cathcart, Alison, McDowell, Steel, and Griffith.

Elders: Messrs. William Gray, Samuel Hart, David Griffith, Thomas Hope, Charles Gillgore, James Reid, William Lindsay, George Curry, John Montgomery, John Dick, Simon James.

Mr. Cathcart opened the Synod yesterday, by a sermon on 1 Tim. iii. 15, 16, the last year's moderator.

Many of the members being absent, the present members agreed not to constitute till nine o'clock this morning, when more members were expected.

Mr. Alison chosen moderator, and Mr. Griffith clerk.

Since our last Mr. William Bertram of Donegall Presbytery, and Mr. James Scougall of New Castle Presbytery, are deceased.

Mr. David Evans sent the reasons of his absence, which were sustained.

Mr. Samuel Thomson's absence last year excused because of bodily indisposition.

The Synod finding several of their members absent from year to year, and particularly some members of the Presbytery of Donegall, cannot look upon such conduct otherwise than irregular, and of dangerous consequence, do therefore order, that every Presbytery acquaint their respective members thereof; and that the Synod expects some reasons of such absence and better attendance hereafter.

Ordered, That a copy of the above minute be sent to each Presbytery.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, McHenry, Samuel Evans, Boyd, Thomson, Gillespie, Cathcart, McDowell, Griffith, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund, for the ensuing year; and that William Gray, John Montgomery, Thomas Hope, elders, be joined with them, and that each member shall endeavour to bring elders with them, if they have occasion to meet; and that any five ministers, with the moderator, shall be a quorum.

Finding the Presbytery books are not brought, Ordered, That they be brought next year.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Andrews and Cross, McHenry, Cathcart and Alison had brought some.

Ordered, upon reading the minutes concerning the school, That the order of last year be continued, and every Presbytery be accountable to the Synod for their compliance thereunto yearly.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, McHenry, Samuel Evans, Boyd, Zanchy, Black, McDowell, Steel, Cathcart, and Griffith, be a committee and trustees for the school for the ensuing year, to meet on the second Tuesday of October and March.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Dickinson being read before the Synod, Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews, Cross, McHenry, McDowell, Griffith, and the moderator, be a committee to prepare an answer to said letter by to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the committee of the fund inquire into last year's determination with respect to the same, and make report to the Synod before this session be over.

A letter from the Honourable William Gooch, Esq'r. Governor of Virginia, in answer to our last year's address, was read in Synod, which is as followeth:

Gentlemen:—The address you were pleased to send me as a grateful acknowledgment for the favour which teachers of your persuasion met with in Virginia, was very acceptable to me, but altogether needless to a person in my station, because it is what by law they are entitled to.

And in answer to your present address, intended to justify yourselves and members from being concerned in a late outrage committed against the purity of our worship, and the sacred appointment of pastors for the service of the altar of the established church, which some men calling themselves ministers, were justly accused of in my charge to the grand jury, you must suffer me to say, that it very nearly affects me, because it seems to insinuate as if I was so uncharitable as to suspect men of your education and profession could be guilty of unchristian expressions that can only tend to the increase of schism and irreligion, which I give you my word was far from my thoughts.

As the wicked and destructive doctrines and practices of itinerant preachers ought to be opposed and suppressed by all who have concern for religion, and just regard to public peace and order in church and state, so your missionaries producing proper testimonials, complying with the laws, and performing divine service in some certain place appropriated for that purpose, without disturbing the quiet and unity of our sacred and civil establishments, may be sure of the protection of, Reverend Sirs, your most humble servant,

WILLIAM GOOCH.

Williamsburg. June 20th, 1745.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Black, present this afternoon, gave his reasons for his absence last year, and his late coming this year, which were sustained.

In pursuance of an order of the commission of the Synod, met at Brandywine, August 20th, 1745, Messrs. Andrews and Cross wrote to the Reverend President and Trustees of Yale College, a letter which is *in retentis*, and an answer to said letter is now laid before the Synod, and the consideration of the whole affair referred to an interloquitur of the Synod.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Alison, Evans, and Griffith, write an answer to said letter, and bring it in before the end of the session.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

30th day, at ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An answer to Mr. Dickinson's letter, laid before us by Mr. Andrews, was brought in by the committee, and being read was unanimously approved, and is as follows:

Reverend and dear Brother:—We had yours laid before us by Mr. Andrews, and trust we can heartily join in all proper methods to promote the glory of God, the interest of Christ's kingdom, and welfare of the churches in these parts, and shall readily join with you in remembering each other at the throne of grace, and praying for each other's gospel endeavours to advance religion. We are also pleased that attempts are making by you to prevent divisive methods. But we would desire you might communicate to us the plan on which you have erected yourselves, what general agreements you brought the members under at their admission, and who are members with you. When we are better acquainted with these things, we can the more readily judge how we shall be able to answer your desires. We can assure you of our regard and friendship, and our praying for the Divine blessing on your person and ministerial labours. We take leave to subscribe, Reverend Sir, your affectionate brethren and humble servants. Signed in the name and by the order of the Synod, by

FRANCIS ALISON, Moderator.

The committee appointed to bring in an answer to Mr. Clap's letter brought it in, and it was ordered that Messrs. Andrews, Gillespie, Catheart, Boyd, Black, McDowell, and Steel, be a committee to revise said answer, and make report in the afternoon.

Ordered, That the Synod finding some difficulties, the Synod resolve into a committee of the whole house, to consider the affair of the fund, and all the papers relating thereto, to be brought in this afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed in the morning to revise the letter, report that they approve of the substance of it; and the Synod appoint Messrs. Andrews, Cross, and the moderator, to be a committee to draw a fair copy of said letter and bring it to-morrow morning.

The affair of the fund continued till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

31 *day, at eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The committee for the letter not having finished, it's ordered, that we proceed to the affair of the fund.

The committee for the letter to Mr. Clap brought it in, and it was approved, and is as follows, viz.:

Philadelphia, May 30th, 1746.

Very Reverend Sir:—We received the favour of yours of the 21st of November last, and acknowledge our obligation to the President and Fellows of Yale College for considering our request and expressing their readiness to promote the interest of religion and learning among us.

We agree with you that the affair is of great importance, and are willing to satisfy you to the utmost as to the plan and constitution of our school, and

the present state of our Synod, under whose care it is. Some years ago our Synod found the interest of Christ's kingdom likely to suffer in these parts for want of a college for the education of young men. And our supplies either from Europe or New England were few in proportion to the numerous vacancies in our growing settlements. Mr. William Tennent set up a school among us, where some were educated, and afterwards admitted to the ministry without sufficient qualifications as was judged by many of the Synod. And what made the matter look worse, those that were educated in this private way decried the usefulness of some parts of learning that we thought very necessary. It was therefore agreed to try to erect a college, and apply to our friends in Britain, and Ireland, and New England, to assist us. We wrote to the Association of Boston on this head, and had a very favourable answer. But when we were thus projecting our plan, and appointing commissioners to Britain, &c. to promote the thing, the war with Spain was proclaimed, which put a stop to our proceedings then. The Synod then came to a public agreement to take all private schools where young men were educated for the ministry, so far under their care as to appoint a committee of our Synod to examine all such as had not obtained degrees in the European or New England colleges, and give them certificates if they were found qualified, which was to serve our Presbyteries instead of a college diploma, till better provision could be made. Mr. Gilbert Tennent cried out that this was to prevent his father's school for training gracious men for the ministry; and he, and some of his adherents, protested against it, and counteracted this our public agreement, admitting men to the ministry which we judged unfit for that office, which course they persisted in though admonished and reproved by us for such unwarrantable proceedings. While these debates subsisted, Mr. Whitefield came into the country, whom they drew into their party to encourage divisions. And they and he have been the sad instruments of dividing our churches. And by his interest Mr. Gilbert Tennent grew hardy enough to tell our Synod he would oppose their design of getting assistance to erect a college wherever we should make application, and would maintain young men at his father's school in opposition to us. This, with his and his adherent's divisive practices, obliged the Synod to exclude him and others of his stamp, from their communion. In this situation our affairs grew worse; for our vacancies were numerous, and we found it hard in such trouble to engage such gentlemen either from New England or Europe to come among us, as our best friends in those places could recommend as steadfast in the faith, and men of parts and education. Upon this the Synod erected a school in the year 1744. It was agreed that the said school should be opened under the inspection of the Synod, where the languages, philosophy, and divinity should be taught gratis, to all that should comply with the regulation of the school, being persons of good character and behaviour. They appointed a master and tutor for this business, who were to be paid by such contributions as the Synod could obtain for this purpose; and agreed, from year to year, to appoint trustees to meet twice a year to inspect the master's diligence and method of teaching, to direct what authors are chiefly to be read in the several branches of learning, to examine the scholars as to their proficiency and good conduct, and apply the money procured to such uses as they judge proper, and to order all affairs relating unto the school. And the trustees are yearly to be accountable to the Synod, and to make report of their proceedings, and the state of the school. And it is agreed, that after said scholars pass the course of studies prescribed them, they shall be publicly examined by the said trustees, and such ministers as the Synod shall think fit to appoint, and if approved receive testimonials of their approbation, and without such testimonials none of the Presbyteries under the care of our Synod shall improve any of our scholars in the

ministry. From this narrative you see how narrow our foundation is, and yet how necessary it was that we should do something of this nature to prevent our being overrun with ignorance and confusion. You see how we have been straitened by the endeavours of some that belonged to our body, who in their zeal have spoken diminutively of all the reformed churches, and endeavoured to pour contempt on colleges and universities. We hope, therefore, you will enable us to make a stand against those evils, and to be united with you in this grand design, is one reason of our present application. We can with pleasure inform you that our poor undertaking has been so blessed by Providence as to exceed our expectations. Several ministers and gentlemen have helped us to books to begin a library; and we hope that in time we may obtain assistance from England, Ireland, and elsewhere, to enable us to found a college, though the troubles of the times hinder our application at present. We have not obtained a charter as yet, but have reason to hope we may procure one if there be occasion; but have another way judged by our best lawyers a good foundation to secure donations, by appointing trustees and obliging them to give declarations of trust. We have also, belonging to our Synod, a considerable fund for public uses, but have no occasion hitherto, to apply any of it to the use of the school, being otherwise supplied. What hath been said may satisfy you that our school is under such regulation as does as nearly correspond with yours as our present circumstances will admit; but we shall readily make any amendments that you desire if it be in our power. We are obliged to admit boys to read grammar, but are determined to recommend none but such as have made a good proficiency in the languages, and are in some measure acquainted with the usual course of study in the arts and sciences now used in the British colleges, though we freely acknowledge our vast disadvantages, especially in natural philosophy, and will cheerfully agree, as far as our circumstances will permit, that the same, or generally the same, authors, on the arts and sciences be taught in our school as are used by you; and would gladly be favoured with a particular account of them. The time of stay with you which you mention, and the expenses, we think reasonable; yet, as learning is not in the same esteem in this government as in New England, we beg all the indulgence your constitution can allow us, lest parents grudge expenses if they run high. We heartily agree that our scholars be examined by the President and Fellows, and be treated only according to their proficiency; that they be obliged to bring recommendations from our Synod, or trustees of the school, and shall claim no precedency in your classes, nor the privilege of freshmen, but what are consistent with the good order of your college. Nor do we plead any such privilege for any but the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, or the parts that are as far distant from New Haven, and are educated under our care, and have synodical recommendations. We further assure you, that improving in the ministry such scholars as you expelled, has been as offensive to us as to you. And those which joined with the Tennents and their party in this affair, as we understand, have withdrawn from our synodical communion, and joined with them entirely under the denomination of the Synod of New York. As to the Synod's constitution, we are unanimously agreed in the same plan in every respect on which we constituted, and continued in our most flourishing circumstances; so we are, to a man, dissatisfied with the late divisive practices, and would soon, we hope, be in a flourishing state again had we ministers to supply our vacancies. We excluded from synodical communion, as we remarked already, the four Tennents, Blair, Craighead, (who is since turned a rigid Covenanter, or Cameronian,) Treat, and Mr. Wales. These, especially the Tennents, Blair, and Treat, being the ringleaders of our divisions, and the destroyers of good learning and gospel order among us; and they, with

a few others that joined with them, erected themselves into a separate body, and licensed and ordained men for the work of the ministry that were generally ignorant, and warm in the divisive scheme, and they have troubled Virginia, and the New English government, and as we are informed, pretend that they belong to our body. But we can assure you, that Mr. Gilbert Tennent, and his adherents, were disowned as members, and excluded communion, before his famous tour through the churches of New England. Some of our brethren of New York Presbytery, whom we esteem and regard, particularly Messrs. Dickinson, Pierson, and Pemberton, have always as freely, till lately, blamed those practices as any of us; but now, through some unhappy bias, are become warm advocates for them, and blaming our method of excluding them, have for two or three years past laboured to procure them seats among us, without acknowledging their faults in dividing our churches, and promising amendment before we receive them again. And we believe that their partiality for these men might occasion them to join in encouraging some of your disorderly scholars, which we are far from vindicating. When these gentlemen could not succeed in their attempt to bring in those itinerants without acknowledging their faults, as we said, they withdrew from the Synod, declaring that they had no other ground to do so but our excluding those members in a way they disliked; and last September they erected themselves into a Synod, which goes under the name of the Synod of New York. And we have now before us a letter desiring correspondence with them, by receiving two or three of their members to sit with us yearly, and sending as many to them. They also propose that we should every third year meet in some convenient place, by delegates, to order public affairs for the glory of God, and good of the church. The proposals seem fair, but till these dividers of our churches, and who chiefly make up that body, declare against the late divisive, uncharitable practices; till they show us in what way they intend to have their youth educated for the ministry, and be as ready to discourage all such methods of bringing all good learning into contempt as the shepherd's tent, we shall be shy to comply with their proposals. Thus, sir, we have given you a just account both of the Synod and school at present, by which you may understand the difficulties we labour under; and we doubt not but your sincere desire to promote the interest of religion and learning among us will incline you to do all in your power for our help and encouragement. You will be pleased to communicate this to the corporation, and if they think fit to take any notice of it, we will depend on them to favour us with an answer. We heartily wish the Divine blessing on your labours in the ministry, and in training up youth for that sacred work, and pray that your college may flourish and become more and more a blessing, not only to New England, but the neighbouring colonies, and we beg leave to assure you that to maintain a Christian, friendly correspondence with you will be a great pleasure to, very Reverend Sir, your affectionate brethren and humble servants.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of New Castle inquire before our next to whom the Synod shall pay what remains of the money promised to Wilmington, and give the person to whom they judge it due, an order on the Synod for it.

Ordered, That Messrs. Andrews and Cross write to all persons indebted to the fund to pay their respective sums, or renew their bonds for the same, before our next.

Adjourned to the fourth Wednesday of May next, at three o'clock, afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

1747.

The Synod of Philadelphia met, according to appointment,

May the 27*th*, 1747. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Adam Boyd, and Richard Zanchy.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Cathcart, Francis Alison, Alexander McDowell, Timothy Griffith, and John Steel.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Cross, David Cowell, Francis McHenry, Samuel Evans.

Absent from Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Thomson, Samuel Black, John Elder, Samuel Thomson, John Craig, and Samuel Cavan.

Absent from New Castle Presbytery: Mr. George Gillespie.

Absent from Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. David Evans, Daniel Elmer, and John Guild.

Since our last were ordained, by Donegall Presbytery, Mr. David Thom; and by New Castle, Messrs. John Dick, John Hamilton, and Hector Alison.

Elders: John Henderson, William Whiteside, John McEven, John McMichael, William Finney, William Gillespie, Thomas James, John Williamson, Joshua Hill, John Cross, William Ramsey, and Nathaniel Bryan.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Francis Alison, with a sermon from 1 Cor. iv. 1, 2.

Mr. Alexander McDowell chosen moderator, and Mr. John Dick chosen clerk.

Mr. Andrews was removed by death since our last.

The Governor being to embark for England the Synod concluded to present him an address.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28*th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of absent members to be considered.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Cowell, Boyd, Zanchy, Thom, Griffith, Cathcart, Alison, Steel, Dick, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund for the following year, and that the following elders, Messrs. John Cross, Thomas James, William Gillespie, be joined with them for the committee for the fund, and that any six of said commission, and the moderator, shall be a quorum.

Ordered, That last year's commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund, lay their minutes before us in the afternoon.

Ordered, That Messrs. John Steel, and Hamilton, examine Philadelphia Presbytery book.

New Castle Presbytery are found remarkably guilty of neglecting to bring their Presbytery book to the Synod. Ordered, that they bring it to our next.

Donegall Presbytery not having their book, ordered, that they bring it to our next.

Inquiry being made who had brought money to the fund, it is found that there is none brought by any of the members but Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Alison, Gillespie, and McDowell.

Ordered, That that affair be examined at our next *sederunt*.

Ordered, That the affair relating to the school be considered at our next *sederunt*, and that it be inquired whether the trustees attended according to appointment.

The affair of Wilmington decided.

Upon considering the distance of the brethren in the back parts of Virginia, we think it is necessary that we should know the state of that church that is under our care, though at a distance from us; and, therefore, it is ordered, that at least one of these brethren shall every year attend us, that we may have the pleasure of knowing the state of Christ's kingdom among them, and that we may keep Synodical communion in reality and not in name only, and ordered, that Messrs. McHenry and Zanchy write them a letter to acquaint them with the mind of the Synod in said affair.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Gillespie now present.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia represented to the Synod the destitute condition of the people of Tredyffryn, by Mr. Samuel Evans' relinquishing the pastoral charge there, and earnestly desiring that the Synod would appoint Mr. Timothy Griffith to supply them as much as shall be thought proper.

Ordered, That Mr. Griffith supply that people on Sabbath next, and one Sunday every month until our next, unless they be otherwise supplied; and that the Presbytery of New Castle excuse him from supplying other vacancies during that time.

Ordered, That the minutes of the commission be read.

Ordered, That Mr. Alison use all endeavours to recover what is due to the Synod by the estate of Mr. Anderson.

Upon a supplication from Mrs. Tennent to the Synod, desiring that the interest of the money due from her husband's estate should be remitted: the Synod agreed to remit eight pounds on condition the rest be paid on demand, and without further trouble or delay.

Adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

29 *day at ten o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross and Cathcart wait on the governor with the Synod's address half an hour after twelve.

The affair of the fund reassumed.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross use all care to get the bond paid which is due to the Synod by Moor and Cunningham, and also what is due by Mr. Gelston, before the next meeting of the Synod.

Ordered, That the committee of the fund take care of what is yet to be done before the breaking up of the Synod.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross take care of the Synod's books and be treasurer.

The affair of the school reassumed. Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consider what may be proper for its advantage before our next *sederunt*, and that Messrs. Boyd, McHenry, Griffith, McDowell, and Alison, be the committee.

A paper containing some scruples concerning the present method of administration of the Lord's Supper, being brought in by Mr. McDowell:

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consider said paper, and to bring in an overture upon it, and that Messrs. Gillespie, Zanchy, Steel, Hamilton, Thom, Nathaniel Bryans, John Henderson, John McEven, John Whiteside, and William Gillespie, be the committee.

Adjourned till two o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

At two o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Found that Mr. David Cowell absented without Synodical leave.

The Synod's address to the governor was presented and accepted.

An overture by the committee for the school was brought in and agreed to as follows:

1. That the Synod endeavour to pay the arrears now due out of the fund.

2. That every Presbytery recommend it to their respective members to be careful to raise collections among their people for the use of the school, and inquire at the meetings of the several members' conduct therein, and give an account thereof to the Synod at our next meeting, and that such as supply vacancies be industrious to obtain contributions from them, and that such congregations as contribute to the support of the school, shall be that year freed from contributing to the fund as usual.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Clap, President of Yale College, and Fellows, was laid before the Synod, and it was ordered, that Messrs. Cross, Alison, and the moderator, write an answer.

The committee appointed to consider the paper brought in by Mr. McDowell, returned the following overture:

That we, the committee which was appointed to bring in an overture on the paper of scruples, concerning the present manner of administering the Lord's Supper, laid before the Synod; being satisfied that said scruples are of such importance as require much deliberation, do therefore humbly offer to the Synod, that a copy of said scruples be transmitted by Mr. McDowell to each Presbytery, to be communicated to every particular session, and when considered both in sessions and Presbyteries, that each Presbytery lay their judgments before the Synod against our next.

Ordered, That the commission of the Synod be the committee for the school, to meet the second Wednesdays of October and March, and that five of them and the moderator be a quorum, as the commission of the Synod, and that they then examine Mr. Israel Reid, and give him a certificate if he be approved.

Ordered, The Committee of the fund meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, at Mr. Cross's.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next.

Concluded with prayer.

1748.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment.

May 25th, 1748. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of the Presbytery of Philadelphia: Messrs. Robert Cross, Francis McHenry, John Guild. Absent: Messrs. David Evans, David Cowell, and Daniel Elmer.

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Adam Boyd, John Elder, Richard Zanchy, and David Thom. Absent: Messrs. John Thomson, Samuel Thomson, John Craig, and Samuel Caven.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Francis Alison, Alexander McDowell, John Steel, John Hamilton, Hector Alison, Timothy Griffith, and David Brown. Absent: Messrs. George Gillespie and Robert Cathcart.

Elders: Messrs. Robert Mathies, John Manillee, Alexander Rogers, Robert Taylor, William Cunningham, James Snodgrass, John Scot, John Crosson, John Callwell, Nathaniel Williams, Thomas Jones, Gillbelcher Parker.

The Synod was opened by a sermon from Psal. cxxxvii. 6, by Mr. Alexander McDowell.

Mr. John Elder chosen moderator, and Mr. Steel clerk.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 26, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Gillespie's and Cathcart's absence excused.

Messrs. Elder's and Guild's absence excused.

Since our last Mr. John Dick was removed by death.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Guild, Francis Alison, McDowell, Griffith, Boyd, Zanchy, and Thom, be the commission and committee for the fund for the following year, and that the following elders, Messrs. Robert Mathies, Alexander Rogers, John Scot, be joined with them for the committee for the fund, and that any five of said commission, with the moderator, be a quorum.

Ordered, Mr. Alison and the moderator examine Philadelphia Presbytery book.

The Presbytery of New Castle declared that in pursuance to the Synod's order, have appointed at several times men to prepare their book for the Synod, but these members found such difficulties that they have not yet said book in proper order. The Presbytery promises to endeavour that it shall be ready against our next.

Ordered, That Messrs. McHenry and Guild examine Donegall Presbytery book.

Ordered, That the Presbytery books be brought to our next *sederunt.*

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it was found that none brought but Messrs. Robert Cross, McHenry, and Francis Alison.

The affair of the School referred.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of Donegall write to Virginia, to let the ministers know that we expect one of their members yearly to attend our Synod, that we may know the state of their churches.

Ordered, That Mr. Timothy Griffith supply Trediffrin once in the two months, unless they can be otherwise supplied; and if New Castle Presbytery can procure supplies for the vacancies, he is appointed to supply them once a month as formerly, and that he be exempted from any other supplies.

The Synod recommends to Philadelphia Presbytery to allow Trediffrin as many supplies as they can.

Ordered, That Mr. Alison continue his endeavours to recover what is due to the Synod by Mr. Anderson's estate.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross take care to recover the debts due to our fund by Messrs. Gelston and Cunningham.

The affair of the scruples referred.

Adjourned to four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, The Presbytery books brought in at our next *sederunt.*

The affair of the school continued.

The affair of the scruples continued.

In pursuance to a supplication from Virginia, the Synod appoints that one minister be sent in the fall and another in the spring, to preach in the back parts of Virginia each eight Sabbaths, and that such members be exempted till all other members of the Synod do the same, and that said ministers' congregations be supplied during their absence, one half of the time by their respective Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Richard Zanchy supply eight Sabbaths in the back parts

of Virginia this fall; and that Mr. Steel supply eight weeks in the spring, and return before next Synod.

It is also recommended to the Presbytery of Donegall, to send their supplies to Virginia as often as they can conveniently.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 27, *nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. David Brown, a minister of the gospel from North Britain, being admitted a member of the Presbytery of New Castle, took his place among us.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia have not brought in their book.

The Synod on serious consideration, finding that the salaries appointed for master and usher of the public school, were not sufficient encouragement, order that the master be allowed forty pounds, and the usher twenty pounds per annum, which salaries are to be raised by collections from the several congregations, whether enjoying the stated ordinances or vacant, and by sessing each scholar twenty shillings per annum, only allowing the committee for said school to exempt such scholars as they shall think proper; and if these two methods will not answer the above demands, the remainder is to be paid out of the yearly interest of the Synod's fund.

The affair of the scruples referred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That Messrs. McHenry, Cross, Thom, Boyd, Griffith, McDowell, Cathcart, Hector Alison, Hamilton, and Steel, be a committee for the school, to meet the second Tuesday of October.

In pursuance to an order of the Synod to the several Presbyteries and Sessions thereunto belonging, to consider some scruples concerning the manner of administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper amongst us, offered by a member to the Synod for his own satisfaction, in order to the being prepared to give their opinion of them at the next meeting of the Synod; accordingly the Synod having heard, and seriously considered, what was offered by the several Presbyteries, and several members finding that the scrupler was not fully satisfied by what was offered, judge it most expedient to leave said scrupler to act in that affair as he shall think most for the glory of God and the edification of his congregation.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at nine o'clock to-morrow, or Monday, about that affair, and that they make a return of what they do, at the next meeting of the Synod, viz. the fourth Wednesday of May next.

Concluded with prayer.

1749.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to appointment.

May the 24*th*, 1749. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Elder, Thomson, and Tate. Absent: Messrs. Zanchy and Caven.

New Castle: Messrs. Cathcart, Alison, Steel, and Griffith. Absent: Messrs. Gillespie, McDowell, Alison, and Hamilton.

Philadelphia: Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Cowell and Guild. Absent: Messrs. David Evans and Elmer.

Elders: William Ewing, James Morrison, James Moor, Robert King, Andrew Boggs, William Lindsay, George Amie, John Williamson, Thomas James, and Robert Matthews.

Mr. Griffith chosen moderator, and Mr. Guild clerk.

The Synod was opened by Mr. John Elder, with a sermon from 1 Cor. iv. 1.

A proposal for peace and an union between the Synod of New York and this Synod, was brought in by Messrs. John Pierson, Gilbert Tennent, Ebenezer Pemberton, and Aaron Burr, which was taken into consideration, and the Synod resolved itself into a committee for this purpose, to meet to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May the 25th, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Adjourned to four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 25th, at four o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The delegates from the Synod of New York, having conferred with us for some time upon their plan for an union, and having given us some hopes that our great ground of complaint may be removed, the Synod resolved to leave the further consideration of this affair to a commission of our Synod, who are to prepare materials to be laid before both Synods at their next meeting, that we may come to a final determination, and the Synod orders that a copy of their plan and confession be laid before every Presbytery, and that every member, if possible, be consulted on this head, and that every Presbytery offer what else they think necessary, in order to answer that valuable end, and give it in charge to the delegates which are to meet with these brethren.

Ordered, That Mr. Griffith write a letter to Mr. Thomson, in Virginia, on this head.

Ordered, That Messrs. Boyd, Elder, Thom, Cross, Cowell, McHenry, Alison, Cathcart, and the moderator, be a commission to treat with these gentlemen at Trenton, the first Wednesday of October, and that the clerk inform Mr. Gilbert Tennent of the time and place appointed.

The affair of the Great Valley referred.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 26, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Donegall report that they have ordained Mr. Joseph Tate since our last, having adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Catechisms, according to the order of this Synod.

Mr. David Brown returned to Scotland since our last.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Cowell, Guild, Cathcart, Alison, McDowell, Steel, Boyd, Elder, and Thom, be a commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund, for the following year, and that Robert Matthews, George Currie, Thomas James, and William Lindsay, be joined as elders, and that any five of said number, with the moderator, be a quorum.

Ordered, Messrs. Cross and Boyd to revise New Castle Presbytery book. Donegall Presbytery book not brought to Synod.

Ordered, That Messrs. Alison and Tate revise the Presbytery book of Philadelphia.

Messrs. Cross and Alison brought money to the fund.

The affair of the school referred.

Ordered, That Mr. Timothy Griffith supply Tredryfrin as often as he can till our next.

Mr. Francis Alison informs that he has received some part of the debt due to our fund by Mr. Anderson's estate, and that his attorney reports that it is put on a proper footing to recover it to our satisfaction in some years.

The order to Mr. Cross to recover the sum due to our fund by Mr. Gelston and Cunningham, is continued.

The order to supply the inhabitants of Virginia by two missionaries, who are to be out eight weeks each of them, every year, continued.

Messrs. Zanchy and Steel have supplied them according to our orders.

Ordered, That Mr. Joseph Tate go out eight Sabbaths to Virginia this fall, and Mr. McHenry as many in the spring, and that their respective Presbyteries take care to supply their congregations in their absence, the one-half of the time.

The affair of the fund referred till our next.

Mr. Alison requested that he might be allowed to join with the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the consideration whereof is deferred till our next *sederunt.*

Mr. Cross requested supplies for his congregation for some Sabbaths, till it please God that he recover his health again.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the school taken into consideration, and after a due inquiry into the state of it, the Synod unanimously came to the following resolution, viz.

That the Synod will allow Mr. Alison thirty pounds per annum for teaching, and they shall be allowed the privilege to exempt any scholars from paying, that the trustees of the school judge unable to bear the expenses of education, and that he be allowed in all other respects to demand and receive as much for all others as he thinks fit, or is usual for teaching, and that the committee appointed last year shall meet the second Wednesday in March, and visit the school.

The affair of the fund deferred till to-morrow morning.

Mr. Cross desired that his congregation might be supplied by the Synod till he recovered his health.

Ordered, That Mr. Guild supply the first Sabbath in June, Mr. Cowell the second, Mr. Alison the third, and Mr. Cathcart the fourth, Mr. Steel the next, and that Mr. Cross or his congregation be allowed a discretionary power to invite any other of the brethren till the commission meets in the fall.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1750.

May 23*d*, 1750.

The Synod met according to adjournment, and several members being expected who are not yet come, the Synod chose to defer entering on business till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

May 24, *at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt*

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Thomson, Boyd, Elder, Zanchy, Craig, Caven, and Tate.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Cowell, Guild, McHenry, and Elmer.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Cathcart, Alison, McDowell, Griffith, Steel, Hamilton, and Hector Alison.

Elders: Thomas Hope, Arthur Foster, William Watson, William Sherron, John Cross, Robert McKnight, William Neill, William Gillespie, Thomas James, James Glasgow, Ephraim Wilson, James McIlvaine, Daniel Ogden, and William Scot.

Absent from Donegall Presbytery: Mr. Samuel Thomson and Black. From Philadelphia: Mr. Evans. From New Castle: Mr. Gillespie.

Mr. Steel chosen moderator, and Mr. Tate clerk.

The Synod was opened with a sermon on Rom. xiv. 19, by Mr. Griffith.

Mr. Thom is deceased since our last.

Messrs. Zanchy and Caven's absence excused for reasons. Messrs. Gillespie's, McDowell's, Hamilton's and Alison's reasons for their absence sustained.

The commissioners appointed to treat with the delegates from the Synod of New York, met with them at Trenton the first Wednesday of October, and inform us, that after some time spent, they could do nothing further to procure a union till the meeting of both Synods, by reason of some of the brethren of the Synod of New York, concerning the explication of their own plan, which they had offered to this Synod, upon which it was unanimously agreed, that every member of both Synods should study peace and friendship, and that the brethren of York Synod should communicate whatever other proposal they think necessary for procuring a union to us at the next synodical meeting, by Mr. Hazard, and that we should send them our answer by the same gentleman.

We find that Mr. Gilbert Tennent has delivered to Mr. Cross the copy of a minute of the Synod of New York, at their sessions in Maidenhead, May the 17th, 1750, which is laid before us, and is as follows:

The consideration of the union being reassumed, according to the conclusion of the commissioners of both Synods, the Synod is sorry that they cannot proceed to make further proposals at this time, through the absence of last year's clerk, and by that means the want of the minutes and the copy of the former plan, but still profess their design to enter upon the affair of the union at their next sessions, and in the mean time to maintain a spirit of candour and friendship.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be sent to the Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennent, who is hereby appointed to deliver it to the Synod of Philadelphia, at the beginning of their next session.

A true copy, Test. THOMAS ARTHUR, Clerk.

The Synod having considered the report of the commissioners, and the minute of the Synod of New York, which was laid before them, are sorry a thing so much desired by us could not be prosecuted as our brethren of the Synod of New York intended, but expecting that we shall at their next synodical meeting, have our expectations answered, by such proposals as shall effectually promote union, shall heartily join with them in the mean time in pursuing such measures as shall promote candour and friendship.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be given to the Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennent.

The affair of the Great Valley referred.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, McHenry, Cowell, Cathcart, Boyd, Griffith, Francis Alison, McDowell, Tate, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and the committee for the fund, and that any five be a quorum, if called by the moderator, and that John Cross, Thomas James and William Neal, be joined as elders in the affair of the fund.

New Castle Presbytery book not here.

Ordered, That the Presbyterial books be brought to our next Synod.

The following brethren brought money for the fund, Messrs. Elder, Craig, Tate, Cross, Alison, McDowell, Steel, and Hamilton.

The order on Mr. Cross with respect to the sum due by Messrs. Gelston and Cunningham, continued.

Messrs. McHenry and Tate fulfilled their appointments in Virginia.

Ordered, That Mr. Griffith supply the back inhabitants in Virginia, eight Sabbaths this fall, and that Mr. Samuel Thomson supply them eight Sabbaths in the spring, and as much more as he can.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the Great Valley referred. The affair of the school and fund referred.

The congregation of the Great Valley is remitted to the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and that Mr. Griffith supply said congregation as frequently as possible.

Upon reading a supplication from Brown Meeting-house in Virginia, the Synod appoint a committee to meet on the place, viz. Messrs. John Thomson, Black, and Griffith, and that they or any two of them, shall endeavour to regulate that, and all other such affairs as shall come before them.

The Synod resolved into a committee of the whole house.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May the 25th, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

An affair concerning promises of marriage between —— and a young woman being laid before the Synod by the Presbytery of New Castle, the Synod on the consideration thereof, and because —— desired, on some accounts, to be loosed from said obligation, and it was found the young woman scrupled the lawfulness of their being loosed from said obligation, the first question put in the affair was, Whether a single man and woman having promised marriage to each other, may lawfully agree again to release each other from the promise; and after mature deliberation, the Synod resolved the case, that it was lawful, *nemine contradicente.*

Ordered, That Messrs. Thomson and Catheart, go with —— to the young woman, in order to acquaint her with the Synod's opinion to endeavour to issue that affair.

—— being called before the Synod and asked, whether he had promised to this young woman marriage, he acknowledged he had, and that he was culpable in entering into such rash and unwarrantable methods of engaging.

The question was put censure or not, and it was carried censure.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of —— reassumed. Another question was put, what censure is to be inflicted upon him for his misconduct in the above mentioned affair?

And after serious consideration and much reasoning on this head, the Synod came to a resolution, that a rebuke before the Synod was necessary to show our detestation of such rash proceedings in young people. And that Mr. John Thomson admonish him.

—— being called, the minute in respect to his affair was read and he censured accordingly, to which he submitted.

The Synod being informed, that two young men were ready to offer themselves to examination by the Synod or committee, according to the act, Messrs. Thomson, Elder, Zanchy, Cross, McHenry, Guild, McDowell, Steel, and Catheart, were appointed to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, to examine them, and that as many of the other brethren as think fit may attend.

The affair of the fund and school continued.

Adjourned till nine, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 26, *nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The committee appointed to examine the candidates attended according to appointment, and report to the Synod that they approve of them.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next.

Concluded with prayer.

1751.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

May 22*d*, 1751. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Members of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Elder, Black, and Tate. Absent: John Thomson, Zanchy, S. Thomson, and Craig.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross and McHenry. Absent: Messrs. Elmer, Cowell, and Guild.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Cathcart, Francis Alison, Steel, Hector Alison, and Griffith. Absent: Messrs. Gillespie, McDowell, and Hamilton.

Elders: Messrs. Andrew Wilson, William Armstrong, David Craig, Robert Matthews, John McMichael, George Currie, Andrew Porter, James McIlvaine, Thomas James, and William Ramsey.

Mr. Robert Cross chosen moderator, and Mr. Hector Alison clerk.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on 1 Cor. iv. 2, by Mr. John Steel.

Mr. Samuel Caven is deceased since our last, and likewise Mr. David Evans.

The affair of Mr. Samuel Evans referred. The affair of the union referred.

Ordered, That Messrs. McHenry, Cowell, Cathcart, Boyd, Griffith Elder, Francis Alison, McDowell, Tate, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and be the committee for the fund, and that four with the moderator be a quorum; and that Robert Mathies, George Currie, and William Armstrong, be joined in the affair of the fund.

Ordered, The Presbyteries' books be brought to the next Synod.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, the following brethren brought: Messrs. Boyd, Tate, Cross, Cathcart, Alison, and Steel.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross write to Lewistown, to put them in mind of their duty concerning the fund.

Mr. Elder's affair referred. The affair of the school referred.

The order on Mr. Cross with respect to the sums due by Messrs. Gelston and Cunningham, be continued.

Adjourned till nine o'clock in the morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 23, *nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of Mr. Samuel Evans continued. The affair of the union continued.

Mr. Elder's affair continued. The affair of the school continued.

Mr. Griffith fulfilled his appointment in Virginia.

Mr. Thomson failed to fulfil his appointments in Virginia, and excused.

Ordered, That Mr. Hector Alison supply the back parts of Virginia eight Sabbaths next fall.

Ordered, That Mr. Smith supply the back parts of Virginia eight Sabbaths next spring.

Ordered, That Mr. Black supply Buffalo settlement and adjacent places four Sabbaths before our next.

Ordered, That Mr. Craig supply about Roanoke and Reedy Creek, and places adjacent, three Sabbaths, and the South Branch of Potomac and places adjacent, three Sabbaths more before our next.

Ordered, That Mr. Smith supply at Norrington the ensuing Sabbath, and at the Great Valley the Tuesday following.

The affair of the school and fund continued.

Mr. Griffith complied with the appointment of the Synod with respect to the Great Valley.

Mr. Griffith met at Brown's meeting-house in Virginia, according to appointment, and none other of the members meeting, nor both parties, nothing was done in the affair.

Ordered, Messrs. Black and Alison meet next fall at Brown's meeting-house to try what they can do in the affair, and report the same to the Synod next meeting.

Messrs. Thomson and Cathcart met at White Clay Creek, according to last year's appointment, about Mr. Alison's affair, and though they then had not full satisfaction of seeing that affair concluded at that time, yet the Synod is now fully satisfied by credible information, that all obligations between said parties are mutually discharged to the satisfaction of both.

Commissioners from Norrington petitioned the Synod for supplies for the ensuing year, which is referred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Upon considering the conduct of Mr. Samuel Evans, which was referred to the Synod for advices, it is agreed: That Mr. Evans having acted disorderly in dissolving the pastoral relation between himself and his people, and having travelled to England again and again, without certificates by way of recommendation to the churches in that part of the world; and having in other things acted, from time to time, in a way unsuitable to his character as a gospel minister, we disown him as a member of this Synod until he give us satisfaction by a return to his duty, and amend his life and conduct.

The affair of the union continued. Mr. Elder's affair continued. The affair of the school continued.

The affair of the Great Valley and Norrington came under consideration, and appointed that Mr. McHenry supply the first Sabbath of August, of February, and May, at Norrington, if they be vacant; and that Mr. Cowell and Guild supply the same place the first Sabbath of July, September, October, December and January; and that Mr. Griffith supply them one Sabbath before December next, and must acquaint them of the day.

Ordered, That Mr. Griffith supply the congregation of the Great Valley one Sabbath in the month until the candidates are licensed, and the Presbytery of Philadelphia agrees that these congregations may apply to New Castle Presbytery for supplies from the said candidates when licensed, by turns, and that Mr. McHenry supply the Great Valley the first Sabbath of November.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 24th, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the union continued. Mr. Elder's affair continued. The affair of the school continued.

Upon considering the affair of the union, our Synod sent a messenger to Mr. Hazard's to see whether the Synod of New York had left any proposals with him to be delivered to us, to which he answered, they had; but that he was ordered not to deliver them to us without receiving our proposals to them.

The Synod finding that there was some misapprehension between them and the Synod of New York, about the meaning of both parties delivering their proposals sealed to Mr. Hazard, came to the following resolution:

That since our brethren will not allow us to see their proposals till we give ours in writing, which our commissioners to Trenton do not agree to be the intention of that proposal; but that this method was intended to prevent clamour and misrepresentations. We are determined to send them our proposals as soon as possible, but the minutes of our proceeding in that affair, being in Mr. McHenry's hands, so that we cannot proceed as we could wish, we recommend it to our brethren, to use all endeavours to promote a healing spirit, so that our designs may be brought to a comfortable issue, and we shall, through divine assistance, labour to do the same; and we shall meet for this purpose the first Wednesday of September next, in Philadelphia, that the Synod of New York may have an opportunity of considering our overtures, and taking proper measures for the concluding a union, which may be of much advantage to this church.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be delivered to the Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennent.

Ordered, That Mr. Hector Alison stay in town till he transcribe our minutes for these years past, and that he be paid out of the fund for this service, and for settling the accounts of the fund.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod being informed that Mr. Hugh Knox and Mr. John Alison, are waiting on them to be examined according to the rules of this Synod, it is agreed that they attend the Presbytery of New Castle, at Elk River, the first Tuesday of August, and be examined by them, and that Messrs. Boyd and Tate correspond with them at that time.

The affair of the school considered, and ordered, That four scholars be entirely exempted from paying, and the residue of the twenty pounds is to be divided among such as Mr. Alison shall think fit. Three being mentioned for this purpose.

Ordered, That the last year's minute relating to the school be continued.

Ordered, to allow Mr. Gillespie five pounds out of the fund for building his meeting-house, and five pounds to Mr. Elder, the first to be paid on demand, and the last at our next meeting in September.

Adjourned till the first Wednesday of September ensuing.

Concluded with prayer.

1751.

The Synod met according to adjournment at four o'clock, P. M.

September 4th, 1751. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Elder, and Zanchy.

Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross and McHenry.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Cathcart, Alison, Steel, and Hector Alison.

Elders: Messrs. Robert Chambers, John Watt, Robert Mathies, James Scot.

Mr. Cross continued moderator, and Hector Alison clerk.

Absent from Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Thomson, Tate, Craig, and Black. From Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cowell, and Guild. From

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Gillespie, McDowell, Griffith, and Hamilton.

Ordered, That Messrs. McHenry, Cowell, Catheart, Boyd, Griffith, Elder, Francis Alison, McDowell, Tate, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and be the commiteee for the fund. And that four with the moderator be a quorum.

And ordered, That the Presbytery of New Castle examine the young men next October, who offered themselves to trials at the last meeting of our Synod.

Ordered, That the Presbytery Books be brought against our next Synod.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross either get in the interest due upon our bonds, or that he sue for the principal and interest, and that it be reported at our next *sederunt* what interest is due, and in whose name the bonds are taken.

Ordered, That the minutes of our last be consulted with reference to our Synodical appointments.

The affair of the school continued, as we determined at our last meeting, to the minutes of which we refer for further information.

The affair of the union of the two Synods taken under consideration.

Ordered, That a copy of the proposals of the Synod of New York for a union with this Synod in the year 1749, which were hitherto omitted, be now inserted; which are as follow:

The Synod of New York are deeply sensible of the many unhappy consequences that flow from our present divided state, and have with pleasure observed a spirit of moderation increasing between many of the members of both Synods; this opens a door of hope, that if we were united in one body we might be able to carry on the designs of religion in future peace and agreement, to our mutual satisfaction; and though we retain the same sentiments of the work of God which we formerly did, yet we esteem mutual forbearance our duty, since we all profess the same Confession of Faith, and Directory of worship. We would, therefore, humbly propose to our brethren of the Synod of Philadelphia, that all our former differences be buried in perpetual oblivion, and that for the time to come both Synods be united in one, and thenceforth there be no contention among us, but to carry it towards each other in the most peaceable and brotherly manner, which we are persuaded will be for the honour of our Master, the credit of our profession, and the edification of the churches committed to our care. Accordingly we appoint the Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Gilbert Tennent, Ebenezer Pemberton, and Aaron Burr, to be our delegates to wait upon the Synod of Philadelphia with these proposals, and if they shall see meet to join with us in this desirable design, we think it would be best to appoint a commission of both the Synods to meet at such time and place as they shall choose, and finally to determine this affair. And to preserve the common peace we would desire that all names of distinction which have been made use of in the late times, be for ever abolished; that every member give his consent to the Westminister Confession of Faith and Directory, according to the plan formerly agreed to by the Synod of Philadelphia, in the year 1729. Further, that every member promise that after any question has been determined by a major vote, he will actively concur, or passively submit, to the judgment of the body, but if his conscience permit him to comply with neither of these, that then he shall be obliged peaceably to withdraw from our synodical communion, without any attempt to make a schism or division among us. This is not intended to extend to any cases but those which the Synod judge essential to the maintaining of doctrine, discipline, and worship; that all our present congregations be acknowledged as congregations belonging to the Synod, but to belong to the

same Presbytery as they now do, till a favourable opportunity presents for an advantageous alteration. That we all agree to esteem and treat it as a culpable evil to accuse any of our members of error in doctrine, or immorality in conversation, any otherwise than by private reproof, till the accusation has been brought before a regular judicature, and issued according to the known rules of our discipline. Signed per order of the Synod,

Per SAMUEL FINLY, Synod Clerk.

The delegates from the Synod of New York agreed to the following concessions and amendments in the forementioned proposals, which, according to the references in them are as follow:

1. Though great and good men have been of different opinions.

2. Always reserving a liberty for such dissenting members to lay their grievances before the Synod in a peaceable manner. N. B. What remains of the sentence to be erased.

That there be no intrusions into the bounds of Presbyteries, or pastoral charges, against the inclination of the Presbyteries or pastors.

That all candidates for the work of the sacred ministry either be examined and approved by the Synod or its commission, previous to their admission upon trials by any of our Presbyteries; or else, that they be obliged to obtain a college diploma, or a certificate from the president or trustees of the college, that they have been examined and found qualified.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent only objected against the synodical examination of young men.

Agreed that the commissioners ripen things for our next synodical meeting, but not finally determine any thing.

The commissions of the Synods of Philadelphia and New York met each other according to agreement at Trenton, Mr. Cowell chosen moderator, and Thomas Arthur clerk.

Some difficulties arising in the conversations of the commissioners of both Synods, they came finally and unanimously into this agreement, that both Synods at their next meeting, do more fully prepare, and then interchange, mutual proposals for an accommodation, and in the mean time there be a mutual endeavour to cultivate a spirit of candour and friendship.

THOMAS ARTHUR, Clerk.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

September the 5th. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The order relating to the fund continued.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The Synod having maturely and seriously considered the affair of the union, agreed at last, *nemine contradicente*, that the following terms be proposed to the Synod of New York, and that Hector Alison transcribe them against our next meeting.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

September the 6th. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The proposals were transcribed and brought in according to appointment, which were approved, and sent to Mr. Hazard, and are as follow:

"The Synod of Philadelphia being deeply sensible of the unhappy consequences of division, are willing with pleasure, to listen to proposals for healing the breaches between the two Synods, and as the Synod of York expresses an earnest desire of an union, that we may be able jointly to carry on the design of religion in future peace and agreement, we have considered your plan of an accommodation laid before us in the year 1749, and find that it has a peaceable tendency, and for this reason we determine to comply with the proposals you laid down, as closely and as far as we can expect to preserve our future peace and agreement, and to mention briefly the plan of union and rules of our conduct for time to come towards each other, and in our judicatures. We propose, therefore, (as the Synod of York have proposed to us,) we agree that all names of distinctions which have been made use of in late times, be for ever abolished.

2. "That every member give his assent to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Directory, according to the plan agreed on in our Synod, and that no acts be made but concerning matters that appear to the body plain duty, or concerning opinions that we believe relate to the great truths of religion, and that all public and fundamental agreements of this Synod stand safe.

3. "That every member engage that after any question has been determined by a major vote, he will actively concur, or passively submit, to the judgment of the body, or if his conscience permit him to comply with neither of these, he shall be obliged to withdraw peaceably, always reserving him a liberty to sue for a review, and to lay his grievances before the body in a Christian manner.

4. "That we agree to esteem it a culpable evil, and treat it as such, to accuse any of our brethren of error in doctrine, or immorality in practice, otherwise than by private admonition, or to spread evil surmises that he is graceless, or unconverted, till the accusation has been brought before a regular judicature, and issued according to the rules of well known church discipline.

5. "That no intrusions into the bounds of any of our Presbyteries, or pastoral charges, without the consent of the Presbytery, or minister, be first obtained implicitly or explicitly; and that no person be excluded from any of our judicatures without regular proceedings, according to our known rules of church discipline; and that all candidates for the sacred work of the ministry be either examined by the Synod, or their commission, and be approved by them, in the languages and philosophy, or shall be obliged to bring a college certificate or diploma, to assert that they are suitably qualified according to the rules of that college, before they be admitted to trials in any of our Presbyteries, and we promise that we will encourage them to fall in with this last as the most honourable and customary.

6. "We propose, according to the first article, that all names of distinction shall be for ever abolished, and for this purpose we think it necessary that our Presbyteries shall be made up every where of the ministers that live contiguous to one another, so that there shall be no such party names, as old and new Presbyteries, for old and new congregations to repair to, that they may obtain ministers bearing party names; and that if any minister shall be dissatisfied to sit with the Presbytery that is next to him, he shall, upon application to the Synod, have liberty to join with the neighbouring Presbytery which he shall choose, if they think it for edification to allow him the liberty.

7. "And though we cannot but lament the divisive practices that have been carried on in this church these several years, so much to the disadvantage of religion, yet out of a sincere regard to the peace of the church we propose that such congregations where there are new erections, each of which are able to support a minister, be continued, and that such congregations where there

are two parties, and neither supplied with a minister, that all care be taken by the Presbytery to which they belong to unite them, but that where any erections have been made by these practices to the prejudice of former standing congregations, and said erections supplied with ministers, that said ministers be removed, and all proper methods taken to heal the breach.

And though this last proposal may seem to bear hard on some ministers, yet we hope that few will be affected by it, and that these may find more comfortable settlements in our numerous vacancies, and be more extensively serviceable in Christ's vineyard; and upon these terms we heartily agree with the Synod of York, that since we profess the same Confession of Faith, and Directory for worship, all our former differences be buried in perpetual oblivion, and that henceforth there be no contention among us but to carry it towards each other in the most amicable and brotherly manner.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May. Concluded with prayer.

1752.

The Synod of Philadelphia met according to adjournment.

May 27, 1752. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Elder, Thomson, Tate. Absent: Messrs. Zanchy, Craig, Black. Present, Mr. Smith.

Philadelphia: Messrs. Cross, Cowell, and McHenry. Absent: Messrs. Elder and Guild.

New Castle: Messrs. Cathcart, Francis Alison, McDowell, Griffith, Steel, and Hector Alison. Absent: Messrs. Gillespie and Hamilton.

Elders: Messrs. Thomas Hope, Thomas Dugan, James Murphie, Andrew Boggs, John Cross, Hugh Ferguson, James Smith, Nathaniel Williams, Francis Williamson, John Hall, John McNeal, James Pagan.

Mr. Cowell moderator, Mr. Sampson Smith clerk.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on 1 Tim. iv. 16, by Mr. Cross, last year's moderator.

The Presbytery of Donegall ordained Mr. Sampson Smith to the work of the ministry since our last meeting, who is now received as a member of this Synod.

Mr. Thomson's last year's absence excused for indisposition. Mr. Cowell's absence excused. Mr. McDowell excused for reasons given.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Cathcart Griffith, McHenry, Elder, McDowell, Tate, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and the committee for the fund; and that four with the moderator be a quoroum. And that John Cross, James Murphey, and Hugh Ferguson, elders, be joined in the affair of the fund.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries bring in their books against our next.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, the following brethren, Messrs. McHenry, Boyd, Tate, Steel, McDowell, Cathcart, brought something.

The consideration of the collection of the fund referred.

Ordered, That Mr. Cross let Mr. Gelston know that the Synod will remit the interest of the money which he owes them, provided that he forthwith pays the principal.

The affair of the school deferred.

Mr. Hector Alison and Mr. Smith fulfilled their appointments in Virginia. Further appointments to Virginia deferred.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 28th, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment. The consideration of the collection for the fund referred. The affair of the school referred.

The affair of the union deferred.

The petition of Catharine Cowan was brought in and read; the Synod refer this affair to the Presbytery of Donegall, together with Messrs. Catheart, McDowell, Griffith, and Steel, as correspondents from the Pesbytery of New Castle, to meet at Octorara the second Tuesday of August, and that Mr. Boyd's session give notice to all parties concerned.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 28th, at three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The consideration of the collection for the fund deferred. The affair of the school deferred. The affair of the union deferred. The consideration of the supplication from Virginia resumed.

Ordered, That Mr. McCannan supply the congregations of North and South Mountain, Timber Grove, North River, and Cook's Creek, and at John Hinson's until the middle of October next chiefly, and at other vacancies as often as he can. And that Mr. Kinkead shall supply the same from the middle of November next until the first of March, provided he has not received a call, and in that case he shall continue eight weeks only.

Ordered also, That Mr. Craig supply these vacancies at their request, and that Messrs. McCannan and Craighead supply his congregation, if required, the half of the time he is absent.

A letter from the Synod of New York was brought in and read.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Alison, Steel, McDowell, Elder, Boyd, McHenry, and the moderator, be a committee to consider the same, and draw an answer, and present it to the Synod for their approbation.

The Synod having deliberately considered the affair of Mr. Alison's removal to Philadelphia, referred to them by the Presbytery of New Castle, judge that the method he used is contrary to the Presbyterian plan. Yet considering that the circumstances which urged him to take the method he used, were very pressing, and that it was indeed almost impracticable to him to apply for the consent of Presbytery or Synod, in the orderly way; and further, being persuaded that Mr. Alison's being employed in such a station in the academy, has a favourable aspect in several respects, and a very probable tendency, not only to promote the good of the public, but also of the church, as he may be serviceable to the interests thereof in teaching philosophy and divinity, as far as his obligations to the academy will permit, we judge that his proceedings in said affair, are in a great measure excusable. Withal, the Synod advises, that for the future, its members be very cautious and guard against such proceedings as are contrary to our known approved methods in such cases.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 29th. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met at ten o'clock, according to adjournment.

Mr. Francis Alison requested that he should be allowed to sit as a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, seeing he was settled in their bounds; and it is ordered that he belong to said Presbytery.

Affair of fund, collection, and school, &c. deferred.

The committee appointed to consider the terms of accommodation offered us by the Synod of New York, brought in an overture, which was considered and approved, and is as follows:

"Upon perusal of yours, our pleasing views of a comfortable union, from repeated intimations of your readiness to comply with what appeared reasonable, are considerably abated; especially as we apprehend you receding further from a union, and from your own former proposals in order thereunto, which we shall fully point out, being persuaded it is our duty, being willing for and desirous of a reasonable accommodation.

"1st. You have repeatedly proposed that all former differences be buried in perpetual oblivion, which you apprehend for the honour of our Master, the credit of our profession, and the edification of the church. How, consistently therewith, do you insist that the protestation of the Synod, in the year 1741, be declared void and of none effect? and that this declaration shall be a term of union, since the Synod have assured you, and are willing to declare, that upon the union, they shall act and carry it towards you as if this protestation had never been made, looking upon the design of the protestation answered by reasonable terms of union; and if any thing further be intended by your insisting that said protestation be declared void and of no effect, we assure you we are well satisfied that said protestation was made on sufficient and justifiable grounds, and we are not in the least convinced that the Synod acted wrong in said step.

"2dly. You insist that Presbyteries shall continue as they are, and declare you see no reason to dissolve the new modeled Presbyteries. How is this consistent with your proposals, that all differences be perpetually buried, and that all names and distinctions be for ever abolished; nay, how can you reconcile it in your own minds with the peace of this church, the valuable end to be aimed at by the union? besides we acquainted you, that an uniting of Presbyteries appeared to us so requisite to the peace of our church, that unless your delegates had given us, by their concessions, ground to believe your Synod would have consented to this, we should have looked upon any attempt for union as vain and useless.

"And your own former proposals on this head, viz: that congregations as they are at present, should belong to the same Presbytery they now do, till a favourable opportunity of an advantageous alteration, gave us ground to apprehend that you would consent, from the apparent necessity of the thing, to this advantageous alteration.

"3dly. You have formerly declared, that though your sentiments, of what you esteemed a work of God, continued the same, yet you judged mutual forbearance your duty, since we all profess the same Confession of Faith and Directory for worship. But now you seem to insist on a joint testimony for such a glorious work of God, in the late religious appearances, as a term of union, by making it one of your proposals for peace and union, that you hope both Synods will go into such a testimony. How is this consistent with your former professed sentiments of the duty of forbearance in said case, and with your declared sentiments, that no difference in judgment in cases of plain sin and duty, and opinions relating to the great truths of religion, is a sufficient reason why the differing member should be obliged to withdraw, unless the said plain duty or truth be judged by the body essential, in doctrine or discipline? And we think it strange you would insist on this or even mention it as a proposal for union, seeing your delegates before us conceded that both great and good men had differed from them on that head, besides your own declaration on that affair, viz: that you doubt not but that there were several follies and extravagancies of the people and artifices of Satan intermixed with what you call a glorious work of God's Spirit, plainly evince the difficulty of such a testi-

mony, especially to such who cannot easily be persuaded to declare that these religious appearances were a saving work of God's Spirit.

"Besides, in order to such a testimony, in an affair confessedly difficult, that it be consistent with reason and a good conscience, we apprehend that it is your business and duty who hope for, and insist on such testimony, that you point out what you believe to be a glorious work of God's Spirit in the late religious appearances, and what to be the follies and extravagancies of the people, and the artifices of Satan, that so a distinct testimony be given for the encouragement of the one, and for preventing the other, and undeceiving many among the simple and ignorant who may have mistaken the one for the other, and yet continue in the mistake.

"4thly. We have condescended for the sake of peace, that all the ministers belonging to your Synod, and all their congregations, should belong to this body; but when intrusions have been made by disorderly ministers into our congregations, so as to render them incapable to perform their solemn engagements to their pastors, we think these things that are so unjust ought to be rectified, yet, if consistent with the rights of gospel ministers, you can find a salve for this difficulty, we will gladly approve of it.

"5thly. As for our sentiments in other affairs, relating to the proposed union, we refer you to our late proposals, which we apprehend just and reasonable, and as yet see no just reasons to recede from, or make any material abatements of them; and particularly in regard to proposals for deciding affairs by majority of vote, we apprehend it strictly Presbyterian and reasonable, and are not convinced that the alteration in that article proposed by you about what is essential and what not, is necessary; nay, we apprehend that such an alteration as stated by you, has a bad aspect, and opens a door for an unjustifiable latitude both in principles and practice,

"6thly. We are much satisfied to hear you propose that young men should bring college certificates, seeing that you have now, by the goodness of Divine Providence, a college erected. We are and ever were as much for this, and more than some of these brethren who once belonged to this Synod; and we would put you in mind that there were colleges erected in reach of your youth before you had one in New Jersey. But no regard was to be paid to our repeated desires and public votes that our young men should have education, and certificates from them, when it was proposed by our Synod; and we think that our Synod may find, among their number, men as well qualified to examine and judge of men's abilities as either the tutors, trustees, or rectors of your college, so that we think the approbation of our Synod, or committee, a good alternative, and yet will give it up if you oblige all your candidates to bring college certificates, unless in extraordinary cases, and these shall be settled to prevent such disorders as we have seen and felt in time past.

"At present we are well pleased with any degree of a disposition towards peace and union professed by you, and are resolved to cultivate and improve, in ourselves, and others in any measure under our influence, the same peaceable disposition, and to concur heartily with you in any plan of accommodation reasonable and consistent with our profession as Presbyterians, and for the good of the Church and honour of our Lord and Master."

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The affair of the school came under consideration, and it is appointed that it be under the care of Mr. Alexander McDowell for the ensuing year, and that he employ an assistant, and that it be examined by the Presbytery of New

Castle the second Wednesday of April, and that he be allowed for his encouragement twenty pounds per annum.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 30th, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the letter for the Synod of New York be sent to them, and committed to the care of Mr. Samuel Hazard.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May 1753. Concluded with prayer.

1753.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

May 23, 1753. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the Presbytery of Donegall: Messrs. Boyd, Zanchy, Elder, Tate, Smith. Absent: Messrs. Thomson, Craig, Black.

From Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross and Alison. Absent: Messrs. Cowell, Elmer, Guild, McHenry.

From New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Cathcart, Steel, Alison. Absent: Messrs. Gillespie, McDowell, Griffith, Hamilton.

Elders: Francis Gardner, Robert Dugan, Brice Innis, Patrick Campbell, William Marshall, John Williamson, John Hall, Moses Irwin, James Mackey.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Hector Alison, with a sermon from Jer. ix. 23, 24; Mr. Cowell, last year's moderator, being absent.

Mr. Hector Alison chosen moderator, Mr. Zanchy clerk.

Mr. Zanchy gave reasons for his absence last year, which were sustained.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Cathcart, Steel, Elder, McHenry, McDowell, Tate, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and the committee for the fund; and that four, with the moderator, be a quorum; and that Patrick Campbell, William Marshall, and John Cross, be joined in the affair of the fund.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries bring in their books to-morrow morning.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it was found the following brethren brought, viz. Messrs. Boyd, two pounds five shillings; Tate, one pound six shillings; Steel, seventeen shillings; Smith, one pound ten shillings; Cathcart, ten shillings; Hector Alison, one pound; Cross, six pounds thirteen shillings; McDowell, thirteen shillings and four pence; Mr. Zanchy's congregation is to contribute to the fund for the use of the school.

The affair of Virginia deferred.

The affair of the school deferred.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 24th, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The Rev. Messrs. John Thomson and Hugh Conn died since our last Synod.

Messrs. McDowell and Griffith came this day and gave the reasons of their yesterday's absence, which were sustained.

Mr. Cowell sent us a letter containing reasons for his non-attendance, which were sustained.

The Presbytery of New Castle brought in their book according to yesterday's order, and Messrs. Elder and Tate are appointed to revise it.

The affair of Virginia deferred. The affair of the school deferred. The consideration of the affair of the fund deferred.

We received a copy of the minutes of the Synod of New York, containing the reasons why they could not enter on the affair of the union so as to give an answer to our last year's letter.

Mr. McKennan fulfilled his appointment in Virginia. Mr. Kinkead did not fulfil his, for which he gave reasons that are sustained, and the rather because Mr. McKennan supplied the congregations in Virginia in his room.

The committee appointed to examine the school report that they had fulfilled the appointed, and were well pleased with the proficiency of the scholars, and care of the master.

The further consideration of the affair of the school is deferred.

It being reported to the Synod that there is a supplication from Carolina, the Synod defer that with the affair of Virginia, till our next *sederunt*.

The Presbytery of New Castle applied to the Synod, that whereas Mr. Hector Alison had laid certain grievances before them, and sued for a dismission from his pastoral charge, and as the affair appeared to be of great importance, and required a final decision at their next meeting, humbly requests that the Synod would join some members out of the other Presbyteries with them to judge of that affair; and that said Presbytery, with such members, be appointed to act as a comission of the Synod, and in that capacity judge that affair.

The Synod granted said request, and accordingly appoints Messrs. Boyd, Tate, and Smith, to meet with the Presbytery of New Castle on the first Tuesday of August next, at New London, for that purpose; and further, the Synod enjoins it on said Presbytery to give timely notice to Mr. Alison's congregations of the design of said meeting.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer

May 24th, at three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The affair of Virginia deferred. The affair of the school came under consideration, and is continued under Mr. McDowell's care and inspection for another year, upon the same footing as was agreed last year.

Ordered, That New Castle Presbytery, as our committee for the school, examine the same in the fall and spring, and make report to next Synod.

The supplications from Virginia and North Carolina were considered, and the Synod orders Mr. McMordie to supply the vacancies in those parts for ten weeks, or longer if he find it needful, and that he pay a greater regard to the larger societies that have supplicated this Synod from time to time, and at the same time do what he can to promote the benefit of younger settlements, and that he set out the first of July next, and that Mr. Donaldson, in like manner, supply the same back parts, and continue there for ten weeks, or as much longer as he thinks fit, and that he shall set out the first of October. The Synod recommends it to Messrs. McMordie and Donaldson to show a special regard to the vacancies of North Carolina, especially betwixt Atkin and Catoba rivers, in giving them a considerable part of the time they spend in those back parts.

A member of the congregation of Norrington applied to the Synod supplicating the ordination of Mr. Kinkead, as fast as the stated rules and methods used in our Presbyteries will permit.

The Synod having, at some considerable length, considered the difficulties which the Presbyteries of New Castle and Philadelphia offered, each for themselves, as reasons why they could not attend on the trials and ordination

of Mr. Kinkead, so as to answer the request of the congregations, came to this conclusion, that inasmuch as the congregations of the Great Valley and Norrington properly belonged to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, that said Presbytery should attend the trials and manage the ordination of Mr. Kinkead, and lest a delay might be occasioned by the paucity and distance of the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mr. Cathcart is ordered to correspond with said Presbytery as an assistant.

Adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 25th. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at Mr. Cross's, at four o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Alexander Miller, from the parish of Ardstraw, in Ireland, applied to us for liberty to preach the gospel as a minister of this Synod. He acknowledged he was degraded by the Presbytery of Letterkenny, and Sub-Synod of Londonderry, and the General Synod in Ireland, but complained that they treated him hardly and unjustly, and offered the minutes of the Presbytery of Letterkenny to our consideration, to justify his conduct. The Synod having seriously considered his allegations, think that they have no right to judge of the proceedings of the judicatories in Ireland; that they have not the minutes of the Sub-Synod, and General Synod, and for that reason think it would be partial and unfair to believe that so many men of candour and integrity would treat him in their judicatories severely and unjustly; and as several of our members have wrote to their correspondents in that church, they think they would act wrong to encourage a man which is cast out of their churches, till they hear for what reasons, and we would warn all the societies under our care to give him no encouragement as a minister, till his character be cleared, and he be acknowledged as a gospel minister by us.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1754.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Philadelphia, May 22d, 1754. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Elder, Steel, and Thomson.

From Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Alison, McHenry, and Elmer.

From New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. McDowell and Alison.

Elders: Messrs. John Henderson, Robert Chambers, John Alison, John Johnston, Robert Meckey, and James Vance.

Absent from Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Zanchy, Thomson, Black, and Craig. From New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Gillespie and Hamilton. From Philadelphia: Messrs. Cowell and Guild.

Since our last Messrs. Robert Cathcart and Timothy Griffith were removed by death.

Since our last Mr. Robert McMordie was ordained in the bounds of Donegall Presbytery, and Mr. John Kinkead in Philadelphia Presbytery.

Mr. Hector Alison, our last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon from 1 Cor. iv. 2.

Mr. Francis McHenry chosen moderator, Mr. Smith clerk.

Messrs. Elmer's and McHenry's absence from our last excused for reasons given. Mr. Gillespie gave his reasons for his absence.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 23d, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Thomson's last year's absence excused for reasons given.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Steel, Elder, McDowell, Tate, Smith, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and the committee for the fund, and four, with the moderator, be a quorum; and that John Johnston, John Alison, Robert Meckey, be elders, joined in the affair of the fund.

Inquiry being made whether or no the several Presbyteries had brought in their books, it was found that the books of New Castle and Donegall were not brought; ordered, That they bring them against our next.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it was found that the following brethren brought, viz: Mr. Boyd two pounds ten shillings, Mr. Smith one pound ten shillings, Mr. Thomson ten pounds, Messrs. Cross, McHenry, and Alison, six pounds.

Ordered, That every Presbytery enjoin their absent members to send their collections for the fund to the Presbytery, to be remitted to the Synod yearly, or their trustee.

The commission of the Synod appointed to act in the affair of Mr. Hector Alison's removal, met according to appointment and determined it.

The affair of the school deferred. The affair of the back country came under consideration.

Ordered, That Messrs. Tate and Kinkead supply those vacancies any time not exceeding three months.

The meeting of the committee for the fund, deferred.

Ordered, That every Presbytery appoint one of their number to preach on Friday evening, when the Synod is met.

A proposal was made by Mr. Alison, for laying some plan for a fund for the support of ministers' widows, which was referred till further consideration. Mr. Steel's affair deferred.

A reference from Philadelphia Presbytery relating to Mr. Elmer, deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the school referred. Mr. McDowell, under whose care and inspection the school has been for these two last years, has declined to have the whole burden. Therefore, Mr. Wilson is appointed to teach the languages, Mr. McDowell undertaking, from a sense of the public good, to continue to teach logic, mathematics, natural and moral philosophy, &c; and it is agreed, that Mr. Wilson have the same encouragement which Mr. McDowell had; and it is further agreed, that the Presbytery have a special regard to Mr. Wilson in their appointments, in not sending him to those vacancies which are too far distant for his attendance in the beginning of the week.

Ordered, That New Castle Presbytery and Messrs. Boyd and Smith, be the committee to visit the school twice in the year, viz: the first Tuesdays of October and April.

The meeting of the committee of the fund deferred. The proposal for laying the plan for a fund to support ministers' widows, deferred. The reference from Philadelphia relating to Mr. Elmer, reassumed.

Ordered, That Messrs. McHenry, Cowell, and Kinkead, go to Mr. Elmer's congregation and endeavour to remove the difficulties he complains of before our next meeting, and that Mr. Cross write to Mr. Cowell to attend on the day which may be agreed on.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 24. *The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Upon an application from the Presbytery of New Castle for assistance, it is ordered, that Messrs. Boyd and Smith sit with them till our next meeting, and be excused from attending Donegall farther than they think convenient, and that Mr. Kinkead correspond with them in August.

The meeting of the committee for the fund deferred.

A plan for the support of ministers' widows was offered to the Synod and considered.

Ordered, That a fair copy be drawn against our next *sederunt* and inserted.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, and Alison, wait upon Mr. Allen at such a time as shall be found convenient.

A letter from the Synod of New York was brought in and read.

Ordered, That Messrs. Alison, Steel, and Elder, be a committee to form proposals to the Synod for the supporting ministers' widows, against four o'clock.

Adjourned till four o'clock. Concluded with prayer

The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Upon a supplication of the congregation of Middleton to the Synod, Mr. Kinkead is appointed to supply said congregation, the last Sabbaths of June and July.

The meeting of the committee of the fund deferred.

The plan of the fund for supporting ministers' widows, was brought in, read, approved, and signed, by all the ministers then present.

The committee, according to appointment, brought an answer to the letter to the Synod of New York, which was read and approved.

Ordered, That it be fairly transcribed against our next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 25. *The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The meeting of the committee of the fund deferred.

The Synodical company agree, in order to complete their plan and carry it into full execution, that each Presbytery shall choose a member to represent them, and send by him their several quotas to the fund the second Wednesday of October next, and these representatives then met, shall put the stock into the hands of appointed trustees, and see the proper regulations of it, a copy whereof shall be returned to each Presbytery, and as many more members may come to assist in the affair as can conveniently.

On reading the minute concerning the proposals to be sent to the brethren of the Synod of New York, it is agreed on farther consideration, to defer sending proposals until conference be first had with some members of New York Synod, commissioned for that purpose, which we judge a better expedient than the present method of treating of an union; inasmuch as a very pacific temper seems to prevail in the members of both Synods, and a letter be wrote imparting our desire of said conference against our next.

The members appointed waited on Mr. Allen, who informed them, in pursuance of Mr. Humphry Murray's last will, he will allow sixty pounds for the benefit of ministers' widows.

Ordered, That Messrs. McDowell and Smith represent briefly some of the

most dangerous opinions and practices of the seceders, and get them printed, and that the books be divided among the ministers, who are to sell them where these gentlemen are doing most damage. Memorandum, that no one piece exceed a sheet.

At the request of Mr. Cross, it is ordered, that Mr. Alison or Mr. Cross shall have allowance to write to any minister to come and preach two Sabbaths at any time during Mr. Cross's illness.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at Mr. Cross's, at four o'clock, this afternoon.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1755.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Philadelphia, May 28th, 1755. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Alison, McHenry, Cowell, Guild, and Kinkead.

From New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. McDowell and Alison.

From Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, Zanchy, Steel, Tate, Smith, and McMordie.

Elders: Messrs. John Johnston, William Donaldson, Thomas Hope, James Anderson, Thomas Scot, and Joseph Armstrong.

Absent of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Gillespie and Hamilton. Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Elder, Thomson, Black, and Craig.

Mr. Tate chosen moderator, Mr. Donaldson clerk.

Mr. McHenry, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon from Heb. x. 24.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 29th. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Zanchy, Tate, and Guild, gave reasons for their absence from last year's Synod, which were sustained.

Since our last Mr. Elmer is removed by death.

Mr. Gillespie's absence excused because of his indisposition.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Steel, Cowell, Smith, McHenry, Francis Alison, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year. The affair of the fund deferred.

None of the Presbyteries produced their books, the omission is greatly blamed, and it is recommended to them to be more careful for the time to come.

Inquiry being made who had brought money for the fund, it is found that none advanced any, save Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Zanchy, Steel, and McHenry. The affair of the school deferred.

Messrs. Tate and Kinkead fulfilled their appointments in Virginia. The mission to Virginia and Carolina deferred.

Ordered, That every Presbytery appoint one of their number to preach on Friday evening, at the future meetings of the Synod, if required.

Ordered, That Messrs. Boyd and Smith continue to sit with New Castle Presbytery till our next.

The plan of a fund for ministers' widows deferred.

A letter was sent to the Synod of New York, as ordered at our last, desiring that some of their members might be appointed as commissioners to

treat of an union; and we now understand that there are commissioners waiting on this Synod for a conference. After the affair was considered in Synod, in order to furnish such as should be appointed to meet these brethren, with some instructions, the Synod appoint Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Francis Alison, Steel, McHenry, Cowell, and McDowell, to meet with them at three o'clock this afternoon, and that notice hereof be given to them.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 30th, nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The conference appointed with New York brethren, was continued so long yesterday afternoon, that the Synod did not meet till this morning.

Ordered, That the affair of the widows' fund and of the Synod's fund be continued.

Ordered, That every minister, according to our former agreement, propose the collection for the fund to his congregation, and as it is a Synodical appointment, it is inconsistent with our church government to be under the check or prohibition of a church session; they indeed may give or withhold their charity, but may not prevent a minister to propose it publicly, according to our appointment. Ordered likewise, That every Presbytery take care of the conduct of their members, how they observe this agreement previous to their coming to the Synod, and that they gather the collection from absent members.

The Synod having taken into consideration the Virginia and Carolina supplications, order, That Mr. Donaldson supply the back inhabitants of Virginia and North Carolina, at least three months next fall; and that he in particular pay a regard to the supplications that were laid before this Synod by some of these back inhabitants. That Mr. Wilson supply them in like manner, for three months next winter; and Mr. McKennan for three months next spring.

A plan of a fund for ministers' widows was proposed and considered. Ordered, That it lie under consideration, and that the amendments be made which were now proposed on reading the overture.

Ordered, That a fast be appointed by the Synod through our bounds before we part.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the widows' fund reassumed. A plan for the same read and approved as it here follows:

In order to increase a certain fund now in our hands, and have the same duly applied to support our widows and children after our decease, we, subscribing members of the Synod of Philadelphia, do promise and agree to and with each other in manner following, that is to say:

I. Each of us shall annually pay into the common stock the sum of two pounds, or of three pounds, of lawful money, as every one chooses, the first payment to be made immediately upon concluding this agreement, and one on the fourth Wednesday of May every year thereafter as long as we live.

II. Every minister hereafter becoming a member of the Synod of Philadelphia, shall have a right to come into this agreement, to choose which of these different payments he will subject himself unto, and so have the privileges of a member of this fund company. And so may every candidate for the ministry under their care.

III. Any minister belonging to said Synod, who has now an opportunity to join in this agreement, but declines the same, may at any time hereafter join and be received, provided he pay as much into the stock as shall make

up the several payments, and the interest of them that he would have made, had he joined now. Also, any member first choosing the lower payment, but hereafter choosing the higher, shall be allowed to change, upon his paying the difference of the two rates, with the interest thereof from his first joining the company.

IV. Out of this fund shall be annually paid on the fourth Wednesday of May, the sum of five pounds, or of seven pounds ten shillings, to the widow of every deceased member, who had been subject to the annual payment of two pounds, or of three pounds respectively, during her life. But if any such widow marry again, she shall thenceforth have but one third part of the annuity she was otherwise entitled unto, through the residue of her life, and the other two thirds shall pass to the child or children of the deceased member, if there be any, for the term of twelve years after the father's decease, and be divided annually among them as the company judge fit. And at the completion of twelve years, reckoned from the father's death, their annuity shall cease. If there be no widow, or if she die before twelve years after the husband's decease, then the whole annuity she was entitled unto, shall pass to the child or children, until said twelve years are completed. If there be no child, and the widow marry, she shall have only one half of the annuity through the rest of her life. If any member die before five yearly payments are made, the widow shall be entitled to her proper annuity, only deducting the payments her husband was to have made yearly out of the same, until five annual payments are completed, from the time of her husband's joining the company. Likewise, if any member of the company should be rendered incapable of all business, whereby he might be supported, by disorders, he shall be entitled to like annuities during such indisposition.

A minister's removing to any other part of the world, or his being suspended, or deposed, or resigning charge or office, shall not deprive his widow or children of their proper annuity, provided he still continue to make his yearly payments in his life time.

If any member fail of making his yearly payments at the times fixed above, he shall thereafter pay the same with the interest thereof, from that time, and if any fail for three years together, he shall thereby forfeit his interest in the fund. And if, at any member's decease, he stands indebted to the fund, the sum he owes shall be deducted out of his relict's annuity.

No annuity shall be reckoned due or paid, until the fourth Wednesday of May, that comes next after the member's being a full year deceased. Every person applying for annuities, shall produce to the treasurer a certificate from the clerk of the Presbytery in whose bounds the person lives, that the person is such as is entitled to a certain annuity, who may thereupon be paid such annuity as is due, according to the case of the person.

V. No higher annuity shall be allowed until the yearly contributions, together with the interest of the stock, have, besides paying these said annuities, raised a capital of eight hundred pounds for twenty members, and so in proportion greater as there shall happen to be more than twenty members in the company.

VI. When such a capital is once raised, then whatever the yearly contributions and produce of that capital shall be more than pays the said annuities, and costs of management, the same shall be divided among, and paid unto the widows and children aforesaid, in proportion to their rates respectively. So as that the capital be not lessened, and reserving a right to the company to apply the yearly payments to raise an higher capital, if more than twenty members be joined, that so the aforesaid proportion between the capital and number of members may be preserved.

VII. We at present appoint and impower the Honourable William Allen,

Esqr., Mr. William Humphreys, Mr. Alexander Houston, Mr. John Wallis, Mr. John Bleakly, senior, and Mr. William McIlvaine, gentlemen, and Messrs. Robert Cross, and Francis Alison, ministers, to be our trustees, and take our fund into their hands, to lend, recall, and remit, to receive the yearly payments of the members, and all donations made to the company, and pay yearly the annuities as above determined, with other incidental costs, and to manage the whole affairs of our fund according to this agreement. Which trustees shall make a declaration of trust to the company, and renew the same yearly, if required, and give a full account of the management and state of the fund on the fourth Wednesday of every May, and whensoever, besides this, if any special cause shall move the company to desire it. And when there is occasion to appoint new trustees, by the death or relinquishment of any of these mentioned, or otherwise, when the company think it necessary to change any appointed, which they shall always have power to do when they find cause. In such cases new trustees shall be nominated and appointed by the common vote of the company. And it is agreed, that three gentlemen, with one or both of the ministers nominated, be a quorum, and have full power to act, when no more can meet.

VIII. We still reserve a power to ourselves to make such further regulations and alterations as future experience shall discover to be necessary hereafter, by the vote of the company at our yearly meetings, which shall be on the fourth Wednesday of May, only no article here shall be altered, or new regulation made, without two-thirds of the number joined in company agreeing and voting for the same. Nor no new regulations shall be made but such as are adjudged necessary to advance, and not destroy the design of this agreement, and consistent therewith, that particularly the proportion between the capital and number of members, and the yearly annuities arising by the present plan, shall not be lessened.

Subscribed this 30th day of May, 1755, by

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Francis Alison,	3	0	0	Sampson Smith,	3	0	0
Adam Boyd,	2	0	0	Richard Zanchy,	3	0	0
Francis McHenry,	2	0	0	Robert McMordie,	2	0	0
Alexander McDowell,	3	0	0	Joseph Tate,	3	0	0
John Steel,	3	0	0	Hector Alison,	3	0	0
John Kinkead,	2	0	0	Matthew Wilson,	3	0	0
William McKennan,	2	0	0	William Donaldson,	3	0	0
John Elder,				George Gillespie.			

In consideration that the widows of such members as now join in company to raise a fund for themselves, will never come upon the Synod's care, the Synod agreed to allow one hundred and fifteen pounds to the company, reserving all the remaining, which is the chief part of their fund, with the yearly collections of congregations, to be disposed of by the Synod as usual, and that the widows that now belong to the Synod receive a yearly relief from the Synod's fund as usual; and at the death of any of them, the Synod shall at their discretion add to our widows' fund as they think proper.

Ordered, That the clerk of the Synod send a copy of the plan for the widows' fund to each of our Presbyteries.

Ordered, That Messrs. Francis Alison and McHenry wait on Mr. Allen, and lay our plan for the widows' fund before him, and that they endeavour to persuade him to be a trustee; and to demand the money in his hands as he ordered some of our number to do when they thought fit.

Adjourned till three o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 31st. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The Synod having taken into consideration the prevailing iniquity which abounds in our land, and the many tokens of Divine displeasure we are under, being threatened with a dangerous war, left to manifold divisions and confusions, both in church and state, and the rain of heaven restrained to the great damage of the fruits of the earth, do therefore agree, that the twelfth day of June be observed as a day of fasting and humiliation through all our bounds, to bewail our sins and the sins of our lands, to deprecate the Divine displeasure we deserve, and implore God to remove these tokens of his anger, and save us from the strokes we now feel, fear, and deserve.

It appears by the report of the committee appointed to converse with the brethren from the Synod of New York, that in order to accomplish an union, they proposed that as to all past complaints and differences, we should mutually forgive and forget, and wholly bury all these things in perpetual oblivion, and endeavour in the strength of God to treat each other hereafter as though these things had never been. And as the Synods are two distinct judicatures now, and in present circumstances are not accountable to each other, they should unite as two contiguous bodies of Christians agreed in principles as though they never had been concerned with one another before, nor had any differences, which is the truth as to a great part of both Synods; and should now join the Synods and Presbyteries upon such Scriptural and rational terms as may secure peace and good order, tend to heal our broken churches, and advance religion hereafter; and it appears that these brethren cannot be satisfied with this dropping all former differences in such a general and indistinct way, and particularly would have the protestation made in 1741 withdrawn, or declared null and void before union.

The Synod have considered these things, and are still willing to adhere to the above proposals, in order to obtain peace and union, which they apprehend of the last importance in the Church of Christ, and see not what they can further propose.

We are commanded to forgive injuries and offences, and this is absolutely necessary in this imperfect state, to preserve peace among Christians; and if it were asked by any, how we can now join, who lately had such differences, we think every well disposed Christian would be satisfied with being told, that we mutually forgive according to Christ's command, and agree to maintain good conduct, through grace, for the time to come.

As to what has been insisted on concerning the protestation, the Synod have repeatedly said, that when an union is made, they will carry toward these brethren as though neither this, nor any of the other protestations standing now in our records, or any other ground of difference on either side had ever been; and we see not at present what further we can propose on this particular. For, any member or members being aggrieved, and obtaining no satisfying redress, even in the highest judicature, have a right to protest and require the same to be recorded, and as the judicature may not refuse members this privilege, so neither can they disannul or withdraw such protestations, the protesters themselves only can do this. And as some members of New York Synod insist on satisfaction with respect to the protestation, and are unwilling to forgive and bury all grounds of difference, we assure them, we think ourselves greatly injured and offended in many instances, and yet for the sake of peace, and the good of the Church, we have made them these healing proposals, which we recommend to the further consideration of our brethren of New York. We desire also, that the Synod of York would consider that they thought it for edification and the good of the Church to erect a Synod at New York, and declared that they did not set up in opposition to the Synod of

Philadelphia, but as a sister Church. We now think it unbrotherly in them to hold a Synod in Philadelphia, and that it looks like erecting altar against altar, and we hope afterwards to have no ground of complaint for such conduct. And order that a copy of this minute be sent to New York Synod.

The affair of the school taken into consideration and continued.

Adjourned till ten o'clock on Monday, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

June the 2d. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Alexander Millar, from Ireland, appeared before this Synod, and begged that we would endeavour to procure a reconciliation between the Synod of Dunganon, or the Presbytery of Letterkenny and him; and he delivered a penitential acknowledgment to transmit to those gentlemen.

Ordered, That Mr. Alexander McDowell write to Messrs. William Boyd, John Marshall, or John Holmes, and inclose his acknowledgment.

A letter was laid before this Synod from the Rev. Mr. William McBath, in Dublin, acquainting us that Dr. Leland, Dr. Duchal, Mr. Mears, and Mr. Weld, with other gentlemen, had sent a collection of books for the benefit of public schools, the use of students, and the encouragement of learning in this infant church, to be disposed of by the Synod in the best manner to answer these good ends.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross and Alison write them a letter of thanks.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That application be made to the trustees of the German schools to procure a sum of money to encourage our school, engaging to teach some Dutch children the English tongue, and three or four boys Latin and Greek, if they offer themselves; and that Mr. Sampson Smith open the school at Chesnut Level so soon as this favour [is obtained]; and that Messrs. Cross and Alison draw up and present an address to the trustees of the German schools. If the sum obtained be less than twenty pounds currency, and not less than fifteen pounds, the Synod shall allow to the school five pounds.

'Tis agreed that the books sent from Dublin be the foundation of a public library, under the care of the Synod. That books proper for our school in the country be lent to the master, and that he give his obligation to return the same indemnified, when demanded; or if any be lost or damnified, that he repair the damages. And further, that any minister belonging to this Synod may borrow any of the said books, and that they be allowed to keep a folio for one year, a quarto half a year, and an octavo, or a lesser volume, for three months; that they give their obligation for the full price of the volume, to return it safe, or to pay damages. And if any book be detained beyond the time appointed, every minister so failing shall pay one shilling per month for a folio, eight pence per month for a quarto, and four pence per month for octavos and lesser volumes. 'Tis agreed likewise, to lend none of them beyond Potomac River; and that the books be committed to the trustees of the fund for ministers' widows, who shall choose a librarian, to take care of the library for these ends, and for the benefit of students of Divinity in the College of Philadelphia.

Appointed that Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Alison, McHenry, McDowell, Tate, Smith, and McMordie, be the committee for the fund.

Adjourned till the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1756.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Philadelphia, May the 26th, 1756. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Alison, Cowell, Guild, and McHenry.

From Donegall: Mr. Tate.

From New Castle: Messrs. Boyd, Alison, McDowell, McKennan, Wilson, and Smith.

Elders: Messrs. John Cross, Francis Alexander, Alexander Bryans, John Crossan, John Snodgrass, Andrew Boggs.

Mr. Guild chosen moderator, and Mr. Smith clerk.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 27th, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Absent from Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Zanchy, Elder, Steel, Thomson, Black, Craig, and McMordie. From New Castle: Mr. Gillespie.

Mr. Tate, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon from 2 Cor. v. 20.

Since our last the Rev. Mr. John Hamilton was removed by death.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Francis Alison, Steel, Cowell, McHenry, Tate, Smith, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund for the ensuing year The affair of the fund deferred.

None of the Presbyteries produced their books, the omission is greatly blamed, and it is recommended to them to be more careful for the future.

Inquiry being made who had brought any thing for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Cross, Cowell, Guild, McHenry, Boyd, Tate, McKennan, Wilson, Alison, and Smith, brought some. The affair of the school deferred.

Ordered, That every Presbytery appoint one of their number to preach on Friday evenings at the future meetings of the Synod, if required.

The affair of the widows' and Synod's funds deferred.

The supplications from Virginia and North Carolina, being taken under consideration, ordered, That Mr. John Alison supply those vacancies next fall and winter. And the Synod recommend it to him, and all such as may be sent by us to supply these distant parts, to study in all their public administrations and private conversations, to promote peace and unity among the societies, and to avoid whatever may tend to foment divisions and party spirit; and to treat every minister of the gospel from the Synod of New York, of the like principles and peaceful temper, in a brotherly manner; as we desire to promote true religion and not party designs. And the Synod resolve to send a copy of these instructions to our brethren of the Synod of New York, hoping they will recommend the like conduct to any they send thither.

Ordered, That each of our suppliers sent to these distant parts carry a copy of these minutes with them.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the school deferred.

A copy of the minute from the Synod of New York, was brought in and read, as follows:

A copy of a minute of the Synod of New York, at their session in Philadelphia, October 1st, 1755. Ordered to be sent to the Synod of Philadelphia, which is as follows:

A copy of a minute of Philadelphia Synod, at their convention in May last, relating to the proposals of union between the two Synods, was brought in and read. In which they propose, that in order to an union, "all complaints and differences should be mutually forgiven and buried in perpetual oblivion; that the Synods should unite as two contiguous bodies of Christians agreed in principle, as though they had never been concerned with one another before, nor had any differences; and now join the Synods and Presbyteries upon such scriptural and rational terms as may secure peace and good order, tend to heal our broken churches, and advance religion hereafter."

On this we beg leave to observe, that it was agreed unanimously, by the commission of both Synods at Trenton, that both sides should be particular in proposing, whatever they thought necessary in order to union; "and as some things which we judged Scriptural and rational terms," our circumstances considered, have not been consented to by the Synod of Philadelphia; we would have been glad had they descended to these particulars, that we might have been now able to judge whether there are grounds to expect satisfaction concerning them. Particularly our proposals concerning the continuance of Presbyteries and congregations as they now stand, and the terms of ministerial communion mentioned in the year 1749, at Maidenhead, second and third articles, and article second at Newark, 1750, and first article *anno* 1751, which last we esteem to be always rational and Scriptural terms.

We readily agree, that "it is the command of Christ, and a necessary duty to forgive offences in the present imperfect state, and that peace among Christians cannot otherwise be preserved." And we can assure our brethren of Philadelphia Synod, that our insisting on certain preliminaries, did not proceed, so far as we know ourselves, from humour or resentment, but from our apprehending them necessary to preserve and promote the public interests of religion amongst us. And though some of our members desire leave to declare, that "they think themselves greatly injured and offended in many instances," particularly in being charged in the protest, as the reasons for entering it, with several grievous crimes which they constantly declare were not fact; yet for the sake of peace, and the good of this church, they profess themselves willing to forgive such offences, so far as they are personal.

We also agree, that "any member or members being aggrieved, and obtaining no satisfying redress, even in the highest judicature, have a right to protest, and require the same to be recorded. And as judicatures may not refuse members this privilege, so neither can they disannul or withdraw such protestation." "The protesters themselves only can do this." And we must own that our insisting on the Synod's disannulling the protestation made in 1741, could have no propriety in it, but from our apprehension that the Synod of Philadelphia, as a Synod, had approved and adopted said protestation. And consequently, if our brethren shall declare, that in their Synodical capacity, they do not adopt it, this will remove the ground of our insisting any further on this point with the Synod.

Further, we assure our brethren, that in meeting at Philadelphia, we neither did nor do design any opposition to their Synod. The only reason is, the case of many members, who are far distant to the southward and westward of Philadelphia, and on that account cannot without insuperable difficulty duly attend Synodical conventions; which, we hope, will be a satisfying reason for our conduct in this particular.

We apprehend with our brethren, that peace and union is of the utmost importance in the church of Christ, and are heartily willing to come into a

coalition upon such Scriptural and rational terms, as may secure peace and good order, heal our broken churches, and advance religion hereafter. Nor do we insist on particulars with any other view, than that the proposed union might effectually answer such valuable and important ends.

Finally, as the protestation made in 1741, appears to be a principal obstruction to the union of both Synods, which nothing hitherto offered has been able to remove, and as a great part of the present members of both Synods are such as were not directly active, nor immediately concerned in that protestation; and as the present minute of the Synod of Philadelphia seems to distinguish between the protesters and the Synod, and so gives us ground to expect that they will satisfy us by declaring that they do not Synodically adopt said protestation; upon their doing of which, we propose the following expedient for the entire removal of the aforesaid obstacles, to wit: That both Synods unite upon the terms mentioned by this Synod in their particular proposals made in the years referred to above, that one article respecting the protestation excepted. That the Synod thus composed of both bodies, shall, immediately after being constituted, proceed to hear and determine the differences between the protesters and those protested against, if needful.

A true copy of the Synod's minute,
Per RICHARD TREAT, Synod clerk.

Ordered, That Messrs. Alison, McDowell, McHenry, Cowell, and the moderator, be a committee to prepare an answer to the minute received from the Synod of New York, against to-morrow.

The affair of the widows' fund was taken into consideration.

Messrs. Cross and Alison inform us that the Honourable William Allen, Esq'r. and the other gentlemen, were pleased to take into their hands the management of the widows' fund in the beginning of last January; and that by a correspondence with the Rev. Messrs. Wallace and Webster, in Edinburgh, they find it necessary to make an alteration in their plan, which was unanimously approved as follows:

If any member die before five yearly payments are made by him to the common stock, the widow shall be entitled to her annuity, only the half of it shall be deducted, 'till what her husband hath paid into the common stock, together with said deductions, be equal to five years' payments or incomes of her full annuity; and afterwards she shall have her full annuity, as before appointed.

Ordered, That Mr. Alison, who was chosen clerk and trustee for the fund, insert the plan with said alteration.

Agreed also, That application be made to his honour the governor, by Messrs. Cross, Alison, Boyd, Cowell, and McHenry, to obtain a charter for the above mentioned fund.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

At nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to prepare an answer to the minute received from the Synod of New York brought in one, which was read and unanimously approved, as follows:

We are heartily willing and desirous, that the Synods of New York and Philadelphia be united; and that all the Presbyteries belonging to both be united as the members lie contiguous to one another; and that our union be not only in name, but in reality, and in love, and sincere affection. This we think will greatly advance the kingdom of Christ and vital holiness among us,

and will, in many respects, be our common honour and our common interest. We are willing to bury in perpetual oblivion, all our past differences and names of distinction, and to forgive all the injuries we have received, or imagine that we have received in times past. And we have the testimony of our consciences, that we study the things that make for peace, (as your Synod have recommended,) and we hope the Synod of New York, and that the world will testify the same for us.

We desire to unite on the same terms, on which the members of both Synods were united when one body. And we are glad to join with the Synod of New York in an expedient to cut off all debates about the protestation made in 1741. We allow the protesters the right of private judgment, and you will allow that we "neither can disannul nor withdraw their protestation;" but in *a Synodical capacity*, at your desire, we declare and do assure you, that we neither adopted nor do adopt said protestation as a term of ministerial communion; it was never mentioned to any of our members as a term of communion more than any of the other protestations delivered into our Synod on occasion of those differences. We only adopt and desire to adhere to our standards, as we agreed when formerly united in one body, we adopt no other.

We refer these proposals to the serious consideration of the Synod of New York; we are in earnest for peace and union, and we hope they are so too. As it may be necessary that a committee of both Synods meet to adjust matters previous to an union, we appoint the commission of our Synod, on timely notice given, to meet with such members as they may appoint for this purpose, at Philadelphia or any other convenient place.

A supplication from the congregations of Cook's Creek and Pecked Mountain, requesting us to receive Mr. Alexander Millar as a full member, and to appoint his instalment as their regular pastor, was brought in and read.

The Synod, after considering their request, find it necessary to wait till they receive an answer from the Synod in Ireland, if they think fit to send one this season; but resolve, that as he has offered satisfaction to that Synod, by our mediation, and has behaved so as to be well respected as a minister among us, if either the Synod of Ireland send us no answer, or inform us that they have accepted his submission, we do order Messrs. Black and Craig to receive him as a member, and instal him, provided they find his conduct in that part of Christ's vineyard such as becomes a gospel minister. And it is ordered, that letters be written by Mr. Boyd to those brethren to this purpose, by Mr. John Alison, or some other proper hand, in the fall when the ships are arrived from Ireland.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be given to the commissioner of the above mentioned congregations.

The affair of the school referred.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the school came under consideration, and allowed that Mr. Smith be paid out of the Synod's fund for the year past, if the trustees of the German schools be unwilling to pay him, and that for his encouragement for the ensuing year, he be allowed ten or twelve pounds, provided the trustees of the German schools refuse to continue their encouragement, as we expect.

Appointed, That the committee for the fund meet at ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1757.

Philadelphia, May the 25th, 1757.

The Synod met at Philadelphia, according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Thomson, Tate, Steel, and McMordie.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Alison, and Kinkead.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, McDowell, Smith, McKennan, Millar, and Wilson.

Elders: Andrew Thomson, Patrick Campbell, Robert McPherson, John Cross, Daniel Henderson, James Pagan, Robert McKnight, John Mustard, Matthew Wallace.

Absent of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Elder, Zanchy, Black, Craig.
" of Philadelphia: Messrs. Cowell and Guild.
" of New Castle: Messrs. Alison and Gillespie.

The last year's moderator being absent, the Synod was opened by Mr. Smith, with a sermon on Phil. iii. 8.

Mr. Boyd was chosen moderator, and Mr. Smith clerk.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia inform us, that the Rev. Mr. McHenry is dead since our last meeting.

The Presbytery of New Castle inform us, that the Rev. Mr. John Millar has been admitted a member by them since our last.

The reasons of Messrs. Thomson and McMordie for their absence were sustained.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Francis Alison, Steel, Cowell, McDowell, Tate, McKennan, Smith, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund the ensuing year, and that any three, with the moderator, be a quorum. The affair of the fund deferred.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries be more punctual in bringing their books for the future.

Inquiry being made who brought any thing for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Tate, Boyd, Smith, Cross, McKennan, Wilson, brought some. The affair of the school deferred. The affair of the Synod's and widows' fund deferred. The consideration of the supplications from Virginia and North Carolina deferred.

According to the Synod's appointment, Messrs. Cross and Alison have applied to the Honourable Proprietors at home, for a charter in behalf of the widows' fund, by a petition, which is as follows:

To the Honourable Thomas Penn, and Richard Penn, true and absolute proprietors of the province of Pennsylvania, and the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware.

The petition of the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia, humbly sheweth:

That your petitioners have, many of them, lived long in this province with great satisfaction, and have, all, endeavoured to promote religion, virtue, and industry, amongst the people under our care, and to impress deep on their minds a lasting sense of their blessings under the best of kings, and in a province distinguished for civil and religious liberty.

As our lot is cast among people who are generally in low circumstances, and many of them forming new settlements in the frontier counties, and, as we have no other support but a small and very uncertain income from the good will of our people, joined with our own labour, we have always found it difficult to make any tolerable provision for our families; and have often, with sorrow and regret, seen the widows and children of great and good men, who were once of our number, very much pinched and distressed by want and poverty, without being able to afford them suitable relief.

To remedy these evils, as far as we can in our circumstances, your honours' petitioners, in imitation of the laudable example of the Church of Scotland, have agreed to raise a small fund for the benefit of ministers' widows and helpless children, belonging to this Synod, by obliging ourselves to contribute a small sum out of our yearly incomes for this purpose. But there are bad economists in every society, and having begun our fund about a year ago, we find that those men among us are most backward to pay their quotas, whose families will stand in most need of relief when they are dead; and, as our agreement is voluntary, without the aid of a law to oblige us to perform our engagements, and, as we thought it our duty to lay our proceedings before your honours, we must humbly intreat you to take our circumstances under your consideration. You will merit the blessings of the widow and fatherless, and lay us under the strongest obligations of gratitude and affection, if you be pleased to make us a corporation by your charter, and enable us to sue and be sued, and to raise and hold a capital stock not exceeding one thousand pounds for twenty ministers, and so in proportion for a greater or smaller number, the interest of which shall be employed yearly, only to relieve the widows and children of the Presbyterian ministers belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia, or to assist ministers of our Synod in frontier settlements, or such as by age or infirmities are not able to get a subsistence.

As the parliament of England granted the like favour to the ministers of the Church of Scotland, 1743; as this will, in all probability, confine our synodical meetings to this city and province, which some are industriously endeavouring to remove to New Jersey; as some of our number, as well as their people, who are in great distresses by the barbarity of restless and savage Indians, will account it their great comfort and advantage to have such a provision made for their families, and, as we design to be burdensome to no body, but to raise this fund out of our own narrow incomes, and as we can with great truth assure your honours, that none are more loyal and dutiful subjects to his majesty, nor more firmly attached to the proprietary family and interests; from all these considerations we greatly hope and depend that your honours will favour us with your countenance and protection, and will be so good as to give proper instructions to our governor to grant us a charter for the purposes already mentioned, and your petitioners as in duty bound shall pray.

Signed by order of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That the money already paid continue in the hands of our treasurer and clerk as formerly, until some answer to this, our petition, be received.

The commissions of the Synods of Philadelphia and New York, met at the place appointed, and reported to their Synods the result of the conference; pursuant hereunto the Synod of New York sent us a copy of a minute, requesting that commissions of both Synods meet on the Monday next preceding the meeting of both Synods, according to our agreement, to prepare matters for both Synods and their happy union.

Ordered, That the commission of our Synod meet with the commission of the Synod of New York for this purpose, on the Monday immediately before the meeting of our Synod.

A supplication from Cook's Creek and Pecked Mountain, requesting that we should receive Mr. Alexander Millar as a member, and that his instalment be appointed as their pastor in the Lord.

The Synod unanimously agree to receive him as a member, and order, that Mr. Craig install him accordingly, at some convenient time before the first of next August.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 26th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Upon reading the absents from Donegall, it was observed that Messrs. Black and Craig have neglected attending on the Synod for some considerable time. Ordered, that Mr. McDowell write to these brethren, and signify that the Synod expects either that they will attend or write, and that in case of failure, the Synod will be obliged to disown them as members. Ordered likewise, that he write to Mr. Craig, and inform him that Mr. Alexander Millar is received as a member, and that he install him some convenient time before the first of August next; and also, that he give him to understand that it is the judgment of the Synod, that he ought to be content with the bounds fixed by the committee appointed for that purpose.

The affair of the fund deferred.

The several members who brought any thing for the fund, paid the treasurer as follows:

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Mr. McKennan,	1	0	0	Mr. Smith,	1	0	0
Mr. Tate,	1	2	0	Mr. Wilson.	0	15	0
Mr. Boyd,	1	8	9				

The affair of the Synod's and widows' fund deferred.

The consideration of the supplications from Virginia and Carolina resumed.

Ordered, That Mr. Millar supply the following settlements in order, in the fall, each one Sabbath day, viz: Cather's settlement, Osborn's, Morison's, Jorsey's on Atkin, Buffler's, Hawfield's, and Baker's settlements. And that Mr. Craig supply the same settlements, each one Sabbath day in the spring, together with Brown's, North and South Mountain, and Calf-Pasture settlements in Virginia, each, at least, one Sabbath day before our next Synod, and that they preach to lesser congregations on week days as often as they can.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be sent to these people and to Mr. Craig, by Mr. Millar, and also by Mr. Tate.

The Synod being informed, that the honourable trustees of the fund for the German emigrants, &c. in Pennsylvania, have generously received our petition, requesting their favour and assistance to encourage learning, and to maintain a school or schools under the care of this Synod, and have transmitted it to the honourable trustees, for the same purpose, in London, and have recommended the Synod, and their pious and good designs, so effectually to their regard, that they have been pleased to grant our request, ordered, that Messrs. Cross and Alison wait on the honourable trustees at their next meeting, and, in the name of the Synod, gratefully acknowledge their favours; and that they do whatever else may be necessary in said affair. And that, if Mr. Provost Smith come here, Mr. Cross thank him in the name of the Synod, for the particular regard he has shown, and care he has taken.

The supplication from the Great Valley was taken under consideration. Ordered, that Mr. Alison supply the Great Valley in the month of September, and administer the sacrament; that Mr. Steel supply two Sabbaths before our next; Mr. McKennan the third of July, and Mr. Guild the second of August and the second Sabbath of November, and Mr. Cowell the first of March. Ordered, that the Sabbath immediately before the Synod, Mr. Tate supply the Great Valley, and Mr. Smith, Norrington.

Adjourned to four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At four o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. William Smith, Provost of the College of Philadelphia, waited on the Synod; when Mr. Cross, according to order, returned the thanks of the Synod to him for his particular care and pains taken, in transmitting our petition to the honourable trustees of the fund for the German emigrants in London; which Messrs. Cross and Alison had presented to the honourable trustees in this province, to be, for the approbation of the honourable trustees there, by them transmitted thither, and which is as follows:

To the trustees general of the society schools for the instruction of poor Germans, &c. in Pennsylvania, and the adjacent British colonies, the petition of the Synod of Philadelphia humbly showeth,

That we, your petitioners, opened a public school about twelve years ago, when learning was under great discouragements, and opportunities of education scarce in this and the neighbouring provinces, and gave instructions gratis for some years, to all ranks and denominations that pleased to accept of the same.

That we have still continued to instruct cheap, and the poor for nothing, and have had the pleasure to see a number educated under our care, who have been of public service. As there is a fair prospect of making this province the seat of learning in this part of the world, we think it would contribute much to the growth of the College in this city, to support and encourage schools in the country, to provide them with able masters, and to keep them under proper directions.

And as you are engaged in an useful undertaking of this nature, your petitioners have made bold to plead for your countenance, and some assistance to enable us to continue our school. We have the juster reasons to hope for this favour, because our school has been as free to the Germans as any other nation, and two of the present reformed German ministers, born in this country, were educated there; and because your petitioners understand that our mother church of Scotland have greatly promoted the charity under your management.

That we may share your bounty in a way agreeable to your generous plan, we propose to remove our school to Chesnut Level, where some poor Dutch scattered in that neighbourhood, may have their children taught gratis to read and write English, if favoured with your assistance, and we will also teach a certain number of Germans the Latin and Greek languages, in order to prepare them for the ministry, if they apply for this advantage. And as the German inhabitants about the river Susquehannah and the lower parts of Conestoga are wealthy, and may have lodgings cheap in a country place, we doubt not but they will be encouraged to send their sons to our, as well as any public school.

As our request seems agreeable to the pious design of the donors, who support your good and useful institution; and as it may be greatly serviceable to the interests of religion, virtue, and learning, in this province, your petitioners entertain great expectations from your generosity and goodness. And, indeed, our circumstances are so low, that we are no longer able to bear the necessary expenses, but must dismiss our school, unless we can procure some assistance.

Your petitioners have ordered Messrs. Cross and Alison to wait on you with this petition and receive your instructions. If you find it is agreeable to your public design, we earnestly request, that you would be pleased at pre-

sent, to grant us some assistance, and that you recommend us to the society in England for the time to come. And your petitioners as in duty bound shall pray.

Signed, by order of the Synod, by
WILLIAM DONALDSON, Synod clerk.

June 2d, 1755.

The Provost presented to the Synod the resolves of the trustees upon the Synod's address, which are as follows:

June 14th, 1755.

Met at Mr. Allen's house near Germantown, the following trustees, viz: Messrs. Allen, Peters, Franklin, and Smith.

And, taking into their consideration, the aforesaid petition of the Synod of Philadelphia, were under some difficulty how to act concerning it. On the one hand they thought, that to grant the petition in favour of an English Synod, might give offence to the Germans, who generally considered this charity as intended solely for their own particular benefit. The trustees were also of opinion that it did not fall directly under the great design for promoting the English tongue among the Germans. But they considered on the other hand, the pleas urged by the petitioners. They knew it to be a truth, that the Synod of Philadelphia, at a time when ignorance, even among the ministry, was like to overrun the whole province, had begun, and with much difficulty, long supported a public school under the Rev. Mr. Francis Alison; and that many able ministers, and some of them Dutch, had been educated in the said school. The trustees were also of opinion, that it was no small argument in favour of the petitioners, that the mother church of Scotland had contributed so largely to this useful charity, and that, if any future application to said church should be necessary, the interest and recommendation of the Synod of Philadelphia might be useful in that respect, as well as in countenancing the several schools in their present infant state, and educating, according to their proposal, some young men for the Dutch ministry, gratis.

In consideration of all which, it was resolved to grant twenty-five pounds currency for one year to assist the said Synod to support their said public school on the following terms, viz:

1. That it shall be under the same common government with the other free schools, and be subject to the visitations of the trustees general or their deputies, appointed upon the recommendation of the Synod.

2. That the master shall teach four Dutch or English gratis, upon the recommendation of the trustees general, to be prepared for the ministry, and ten poor Dutch children in the English tongue gratis, if so many offer.

3. That the deputy trustees, together with the master, and any of the clergy, visit the school, at least once a quarter, and send down a statement thereof to be transmitted by the general trustees to the honourable society.

Agreed that this case be transmitted to the honourable society, to obtain their directions thereupon.

Ordered, That the terms of the trustees be complied with; and that Messrs. Boyd and McDowell, Moses Irwin, James Marshal, Martin Beam, and Jacob Graft, be recommended as deputy trustees for the ensuing year, and visit the school every quarter, the third Tuesday, commencing with the third Tuesday of August next, if the trustees general approve.

Ordered, That Messrs. Millar and Smith draw up some reasons for a general fast within our bounds, against our next.

'Tis agreed that the school be continued under Mr. Smith's care for another year, with the usual encouragement from the German schools.

The affair of the fund deferred. The consideration of the fast deferred.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 27th. Nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The members appointed to draw up reasons for a general fast within our bounds, brought them in, and they were read and amended as follows:

The Synod taking under serious consideration the melancholy state of the British dominions, and their allies, the danger of the Protestant interest in general, and particularly of the English colonies of America, arising from the formidable combination of antichristian powers in Europe, and the shocking depredations and barbarities of the heathen on our borders, influenced and abetted by the perfidious, restless enemies of our civil and religious liberties; as also the abounding profanity and wickedness of all ranks and degrees of men; the awful contempt cast upon the glorious gospel of Christ, not only by the professed infidelity of its open adversaries, but likewise by the unbelief, hypocrisy, uncharitableness, and loose practices of its professed friends; and being deeply sensible of, and affected with, the ungrateful abuse and misimprovement of the many privileges we have long enjoyed; our peace, plenty, and liberty having been turned into wantonness, pride, and licentiousness; and being firmly persuaded that for these things God is testifying his displeasure against us, both at home and abroad, by a calamitous war, in which we are involved, while an amazing insensibility generally prevails under the present gloomy appearances of Divine Providence, and a want of public spirit, and zeal for the common good; do, for these and the like reasons, recommend the twenty-third day of June next, to be observed by the people belonging to the Synod, as a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer, throughout their bounds, to bewail our aggravated and crying sins, to deprecate the deserved wrath of heaven, and to implore the divine mercy and forgiveness; that the Spirit of grace may be poured out upon us; that, as a people, we may turn unto the Lord by a sincere repentance; that God would preserve and bless our gracious king, direct his counsels, go forth with his fleets and armies, and also those of his allies, and crown them with success; that he would guard and defend our sea coasts and frontiers against all the designs of our enemies; that he would preserve to us our invaluable liberties, both civil and religious; that he would yet bless us with fruitful seasons, mercifully heal all our divisions, and cause our present confusions happily to terminate in the glorious advancement of the peaceful kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly it is ordered, that all our ministers represent these things to the people under our care, and excite them to these solemn exercises, and, for that end, suit their sermons and prayers, on that day, to the important occasion.

Signed, by order of the Synod, by
ADAM BOYD, Moderator.

Ordered, That the commission for the fund meet immediately at Mr. Cross's.

Adjourned to the fourth Wednesday of May next. Concluded with prayer.

1758.

The Synod met according to adjournment,

At Philadelphia, May 24th, 1758. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Cross, Dr. Alison, Cowell, Guild, Kinkead.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Tate, Steel.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Boyd, McDowell, Hector Alison, Smith, Millar, McKennan.

Elders: John Johnston, James Piper, James Kerr, Moses Irvin, James Edwards.

Absent of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Gillespie and Wilson.

" of Donegall: Messrs. Zanchy, Elder, Thomson, McMordie, Black, Craig, Alexander Miller.

Dr. Alison opened the Synod with a sermon on Eph. iv. 1—8.

Mr. Smith chosen moderator, Mr. Millar clerk.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Dr. Alison, Cowell, Steel, Tate, Boyd, McDowell, Hector Alison, McKennan, and the moderator, be the commission of the Synod, and committee for the fund for the ensuing year, and that three, with the moderator, be a quorum.

Inquiry being made who had brought any thing for the fund, it was found that Messrs. Cross, Boyd, Smith, Hector Alison, Miller, McKennan, Guild, Tate, had brought.

Ordered, That the committee for the fund meet at Mr. Cross's house to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Adjourned to three o'clock in the afternoon to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

May 25th, at three o'clock. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The commission of this Synod report, that they met with the commission of the Synod of New York on Monday last, according to the appointment of last Synod; and, that after mutual conference on the affair of uniting the two Synods, a plan of union was formed by the two commissions, which they agreed should be proposed to each Synod.

The plan was read, and considered for some time, and the further consideration of it deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning, and concluded with prayer.

May 26, at nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

The plan of union was further considered.

A letter was ordered to be wrote to the Rev. Dr. William Leechman, Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, which was done, and is as follows:

Philadelphia, May 29th, 1758.

Very Reverend Sir,—Though we have not the honour of personal acquaintance with you, yet your distinguished character and praises in the churches of Christ, and eminent station in the University of Glasgow, are well known to us, and to the churches in these American colonies, and we would much esteem a correspondence with you, if your more important affairs might allow it. We presume to give you this trouble now, requesting you to accept for yourself, and to present to the learned Professors of the University our grateful acknowledgments for the late mark of your regard to the Rev. Mr. Francis Alison, a member of this Synod, in conferring a degree of Doctor of Divinity upon him. He is a gentleman of good character, a public spirit, and well esteemed as a preacher. He has been very industrious and successful in promoting learning in this part of the world, both before and since he was called to a public station in the college and academy in this city; and we hope he will ever behave so as to deserve your regard. Such honours conferred on men of confessed worth here, may

much encourage learning and public usefulness, and may be of service to our church, as we have another denomination among us, whose ministers are frequently honoured with such titles. We shall ever think it an honour to our Synod to enjoy the favour of that university, and particularly of Dr. Leechman.

We are, Reverend Sir, your very obliged humble servants.

Signed by order of the Synod of Philadelphia, by

SAMPSON SMITH, Moderator.

Upon reading the answer given by the trustees of the German schools in this province, Mr. Cross informed that the honourable trustees general, in England, had complied with the Synod's petition, as appears by an extract of a letter from them to the Rev. William Smith, one of the trustees here, which was laid before the Synod, and was as follows:

Extract of Dr. Chandler's letter to the Rev. Mr. Smith, received by Mr. Smith, September 14th, 1757.

"Nov. 27th, last, upon the petition of the Synod of Pennsylvania, and the recommendation of our trustees, we have agreed to allow thirty pounds sterling per annum, toward the support of the school mentioned to be erected by them, from midsummer before that date. And I have purchased and packed up, among other books, a large number of English Primers and Spelling Books for their use, and that of the German children, which I hope will soon be sent over to you; as soon, at least, as I can get a safe conveyance."

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Dr. Alison, McDowell, and the moderator, be a committee to settle with Provost Smith, the accounts of the annual donation of the honourable trustees to the Synod.

Agreed that the school be continued under Mr. Smith's care for another year, with the usual encouragement from the fund for the German schools.

Adjourned to three o'clock, and concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met, et post preces sederunt qui supra.

Agreed by the Synod, at Mr. Cross's request, that the box belonging to the Synod's fund, and all pertaining thereto, be put into Dr. Alison's hand in trust.

The consideration of the plan of union was resumed, and some alterations proposed. And the Synod being informed that a committee had been appointed by the two commissioners to prepare the first draught of this plan, to wit, Messrs. Hector Alison, Miller, Smith, and McDowell, of our members, with Messrs. Bostwick, Davis, Samuel Finley, and Blair, of the other commission: Ordered, That Mr. McDowell go and inform the Synod of New York, now sitting, that this Synod has considered the plan for union, and desires, when they have likewise done so, the same committee may meet, and communicate to each other the corrections proposed in each Synod.

Mr. McDowell presently returned, and reports that the Synod of New York agreed to the motion.

Ordered, That the committee meet accordingly to-morrow.

Adjourned till nine o'clock on Monday morning, and concluded with prayer.

May 20th, at nine o'clock on Monday morning the Synod met, et post preces sederunt qui supra.

Our members of the committee appointed to meet with those of New York Synod, report that they met on Saturday last, and communicated the amendments proposed by each Synod in the plan of union, and conferred upon them.

Ordered, That these members lay the amendments proposed by the Synod of New York before this Synod, which they did.

The Synod considered them, and agreed they should be allowed.

Ordered, That the same members of the above mentioned committee inform the Synod of New York of this agreement.

The members went and informed them accordingly, and soon returned, and acquainted this Synod that the Synod of New York had also agreed to admit the amendments proposed in this Synod, and therefore thought the affair was now ripe for the two Synods to meet together and complete the agreement.

The plan as now prepared was finally put to the vote, and was unanimously approved as a satisfactory plan for uniting upon.

Agreed that this Synod meet with the Synod of New York at three o'clock, P. M. and that this be notified to them.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M., and concluded with prayer.

N. B. At three o'clock, P. M. the two Synods met.

The plan of union was now read before them, and unanimously agreed to.

The Synods being now united, a new book was opened, and the whole plan and articles of union entered, as may be seen in that book, where the minutes of the new united Synod are recorded.

The party which withdrew from the Synod of Philadelphia, the reasons and manner of whose secession are stated in the foregoing records, subsequently formed themselves into a Synod, under the style of the Synod of New York, embracing the Presbyteries of New York, New Brunswick and New Castle. Their first meeting was held in the year 1745, and their last in 1758, at which time a re-union of the two parties was effected as above recited. The minutes of this body form the next link in the documentary history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

PART THIRD.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK,

FROM A. D. 1745 TO 1758.

1745.

Elizabethtown, New Jersey, September 19*th*, 1745.

The ministers and elders whose names are presently to be inserted, convened and formed themselves into a Synod, under the name or title of the Synod of New York.

Ministers of the Presbytery of New York: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, Eliab Byram, Robert Sturgeon.

Ministers of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Joseph Lamb, William Tennent, Richard Treat, James McCrea, William Robinson, David Youngs, Charles Beatty, Charles McKnight.

Ministers of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Blair, Samuel Finly, Charles Tennent, John Blair.

Elders: Joseph Woodruffe, Nathaniel Hazard, Joseph Prudden, Benjamin Leonard, John Ayres, Samuel Hazard, Robert Cummins, John Craig, Richard Walker, Peter Peryen, John Love, Alexander Moody.

The ministers and elders before mentioned, first considered and agreed upon the following articles, as the plan and foundation of their synodical union.

1. They agree that the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, be the public confession of their faith in such manner as was agreed unto by the Synod of Philadelphia, in the year 1729; and to be inserted in the latter end of this book. And they declare their approbation of the Directory of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, as the general plan of worship and discipline.

2. They agree that in matters of discipline, and those things that relate to the peace and good order of our churches, they shall be determined according to the major vote of ministers and elders, with which vote every member shall actively concur or pacifically acquiesce: but if any member cannot in conscience agree to the determination of the majority, but supposes himself obliged to act contrary thereunto, and the Synod think themselves obliged to insist upon it as essentially necessary to the well-being of our churches, in that case such dissenting member promises peaceably to withdraw from the body, without endeavouring to raise any dispute or contention upon the debated point, or any unjust alienation of affection from them.

3. If any member of their body supposes that he hath any thing to object against any of his brethren with respect to error in doctrine, immorality in life, or negligence in his ministry, he shall not on any account, propagate the scandal, until the person objected against is dealt with according to the rules of the gospel, and the known methods of their discipline.

4. They agree, that all who have a competent degree of ministerial knowledge, are orthodox in their doctrine, regular in their lives, and diligent in their endeavours to promote the important designs of vital godliness, and that will submit to their discipline, shall be cheerfully admitted into their communion.

And they do also agree, that in order to avoid all divisive methods among their ministers and congregations, and to strengthen the discipline of Christ in the churches in these parts, they will maintain a correspondence with the Synod of Philadelphia in this their first meeting, by appointing two of their members to meet with the said Synod of Philadelphia at their next convention, and to concert with them such measures as may best promote the precious interests of Christ's kingdom in these parts.

And that they may in no respect encourage any factious separating practices or principles; they agree that they will not intermeddle with judicially hearing the complaints, or with supplying with ministers and candidates such parties of men, as shall separate from any Presbyterian or Congregational churches, that are not within their bounds, unless the matters of controversy be submitted to their jurisdiction or advice by both parties. Thereupon,

The Synod opened by prayer. Mr. Jonathan Dickinson chosen moderator, Mr. Ebenezer Pemberton chosen clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, at nine of the clock, ante meridiem. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the moderator and Mr. Pierson do correspond with the Synod of Philadelphia at their next session.

Ordered, That Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Samuel Blair, and Ebenezer Pemberton, do draw up a testimony to the work of God's glorious grace, which has been carried on in these parts of the land, and bring it in for the approbation of the Synod at their next *sederunt*.

The circumstances of Virginia being brought under consideration, and the wide door that is opened for the preaching of the gospel in these parts, with a hopeful prospect of success, the Synod are unanimously of the opinion, that Mr. Robinson is the most suitable person to be sent among them, and accordingly they do earnestly recommend it to him to go down and help them as soon as his circumstances will permit him, and reside there for some months.

An interloquitur of the ministers of the Synod appointed to meet at half an hour past two, *post meridiem*.

The Synod adjourned till four of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Four of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The interloquitur met according to appointment.

Messrs. Tennent, Pemberton, and Blair, brought in a testimony to the work of God's grace among us, according to appointment, which was unanimously approved. But the original being lost it cannot be inserted here.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Pierson, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Burr, Samuel Blair, Finly, Pemberton, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the ensuing year.

The Synod adjourned to the second Wednesday of October, 1746, and then to meet at New York. Concluded with prayer.

1746.

The Synod convened according to appointment,

New York, October 9th, 1746. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, Samuel Blair, Samuel Finly, Aaron Burr, Azariah Horton, Charles Beatty, Charles McKnight, John Roan, Ebenezer Pemberton.

Elders: Messrs. Richard Walker, William Eagles.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Joseph Lamb, Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Richard Treat, James McCrea, David Youngs, Charles Tennent, John Blair, David Bostwick, Thomas Arthur, John Grant, Andrew Hunter, John Pierson, Eliab Byram, Simon Horton, Timothy Jones, David Brainerd, Robert Sturgeon, Eleazer Wales, and William Dean.

The Synod was opened by a sermon from Psal. xxiv. 4, preached by Mr. Dickinson, the last year's moderator.

Mr. Pemberton chosen moderator, Mr. Finly clerk.

The Synod is informed that most of the absent members were upon their journey to New York to attend the Synod, but were prevented through apprehensions of the small pox and other difficulties.

Our Reverend brother, Mr. William Robinson, is departed this life since our last meeting.

The small pox prevailing in Philadelphia in May last, prevented Messrs. Dickinson and Pierson from corresponding with the Synod of Philadelphia at their last meting, but they wrote to them and received an answer.

The same members appointed to be a commission of the Synod this year, who were the last.

A supplication and call for a minister from Hanover in Virginia, was brought into the Synod and read; the Synod doth earnestly recommend the assisting of said people, to the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and New Castle.

The Synod considering the present fewness of ruling elders attending the Synod, doth recommend it to all their members to endeavour to bring elders with them.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of May next, and then to meet at Maidenhead. Concluded with prayer.

1747.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Maidenhead, May 20th, 1747. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Ebenezer, Pemberton, Simon Horton, Azariah Horton, David Bostwick, John Grant, Timothy Jones, Eliab Byram, Thomas Arthur, Jacob Green, Nathaniel Tucker, Joseph Lamb, Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, James McCrea, James Campbel, James Davenport, Charles McKnight, Charles Beatty, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Samuel Sacket, Samuel Blair, John Blair, William Dean, John Roan, and Samuel Finley.

Elders: Messrs. Joseph Prudden, Ebenezer Byram, John Lyle, John Ayres, Thomas Bourn, David Parry, Ephraim Lockert, Robert Smith, Robert English, John Grey, Francis Brewster, Daniel Mills, John Smith, Samuel Sturgeon, and Hugh Kirkpatrick.

Ministers absent: Aaron Burr, David Youngs, Timothy Syms, Robert

Sturgeon, David Brainerd, William Tennent, Eleazer Wales, Charles Tennent, Hutchinson, and Davis.

Mr. Pemberton, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon on Acts iv. 29.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent chosen moderator, Mr. Treat clerk.

Messrs. Dickinson, Pemberton, Pierson, Burr, Lamb, William Tennent, Samuel Blair, Finly, Charles Tennent, and the moderator, are appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

A letter was brought into the Synod from the new settlements in Virginia, requesting a minister might be sent to preach the gospel, &c. unto them. The Synod appoints Mr. Byram to go to said people some time in next September, and spend some time with them, and appoints the Presbytery of New York to supply his people with preaching during his absence. And the Synod doth, moreover, appoint Messrs. Dickinson and Pemberton to write to Mr. Bewel, in order to procure him to accompany Mr. Byram in said journey.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at Maidenhead at two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1748.

The Synod met according to appointment,

Maidenhead, May the 18*th*, 1748. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Azariah Horton, Jacob Green, Timothy Syms, Joseph Lamb, James McCrea, John Brainerd, Charles McKnight, James Davenport, Eliab Byram, Gilbert Tennent, Andrew Hunter, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, James Campbel, Daniel Lawrence, John Blair, John Roan.

Elders: Messrs. Ephraim Price, Brice Rickey, John Craig, Samuel Hazard, Isaac Mills, Cornelius Wynkoop, John Grey, Robert Smith, David Wilson.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Robert Sturgeon, John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, David Bostwick, John Grant, Thomas Arthur, David Youngs, Timothy Jones, Samuel Sacket, William Tennent, Eleazer Wales, Job Prudden, Thomas Lewis, Samuel Blair, Samuel Finly, William Dean, Samuel Davis, Andrew Sterling, Andrew Bay and Charles Tennent.

Mr. Lamb chosen moderator, Mr. John Blair clerk.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Rom. xi. 36.

The Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Dickinson, David Brainerd, and Nathaniel Tucker, have been removed by death since our last meeting.

The last year's minutes not being present, the Synod is necessitated to proceed as well as they can without them.

Mr. Byram fulfilled his appointment in going to Virginia, but Mr. Bewel could not be obtained to accompany him.

The Presbytery of Suffolk county, on Long-Island, having, by their delegate Mr. Ebenezer Prime, desired to be admitted as members of this Synod with the proviso, that one or two of their members in all time to come, be allowed the privilege of representing them in the Synod, and acting for them as delegates; and likewise, that some members of New York Presbytery, might join them in their Presbyterial judicatories. In answer to which, the Synod does signify that they are willing to make all reasonable allowances for the absence of their members, who live far distant from the place of their convention, and when the Synod shall, on the account of their growing number and distant abode, conclude to form any of its sessions of delegates, they will

readily admit that Reverend Presbytery to the common privilege of their body; before which, we judge it would be unprecedented and unequal, and of bad tendency.

If the Reverend Presbytery aforesaid is pleased to join with us on the aforesaid terms, then we declare our willingness to receive them, and that such of the Presbytery of New York who live on Long Island, as are inclined to it, may join with them as members.

A call was brought into the Synod, to be presented to the Rev. Mr. Dean, from the congregations of Timber Ridge and forks of James's River; the Synod refer the consideration thereof to the Presbytery of New Castle, to which Mr. Dean doth belong, and do recommend it to said Presbytery to meet at Mr. Dean's meeting-house on Wednesday next upon said affair, and that Mr. Dean and his people be speedily apprized of it.

A call was brought into the Synod from Falling Spring and New Providence, to be presented to Mr. Byram, the acceptance of which he declined.

A supplication for supplies, and in particular for the opportunity of a probationer from Cedar Creek and Opeken, was brought into the Synod, and also, a supplication for relief from a person who had suffered loss by fire; the consideration of both which is deferred until the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to ten of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, at ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra,

Together with Mr. Charles Tennent.

Application was made to the Synod in behalf of the lower counties in and adjacent to Maryland, for supplies.

Motion was made to the Synod in behalf of Cape May, in order to have some provision made for the settlement of a minister there.

A supplication was brought in from Augusta county in Virginia.

With respect to the supplication for a charitable contribution, the Synod judges that it is an affair belonging to the civil magistrate, but does not belong to them to transact any thing synodically about it.

The Synod proceeded to consider the motion respecting Cape May, and in order to the relief of that people, the Synod doth recommend to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, to send down Mr. Lawrence immediately for a few Sabbaths, and also recommends to the Presbytery of New Castle, to take Mr. Hugh Henry speedily under trials, and in case of his licensure by said Presbytery, the Synod appoint said Presbytery, to send him directly down to said people, to supply there some time upon trial for settlement, if Divine Providence clear the way.

In answer to the supplication from the people in Augusta county, the Synod appoints Mr. Cummins to go there in the fall for some time, and they appoint Mr. Hunter to go into the lower counties, &c. the first of September, and preach there four Sabbaths.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at Maidenhead at eleven of the clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1749.

The Synod met at Maidenhead according to appointment,

May the 17*th*, 1749. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Aaron Burr, James Davenport, David Youngs, Thomas Arthur, John Brainerd, Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, James Campbell, Charles Beatty, Samuel Sacket, Timothy Allen, James McCrea, Thomas Lewis, Andrew Hunter, Daniel

Lawrence, John Roan, Samuel Davis, Andrew Bay, John Rogers, Samuel Finly.

Elders: Messrs. John Lyle, Samuel Hazard, Hugh Marten, Thomas Logan, Daniel Grant, Hugh Kirkpatrick.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Simon Horton, Azariah Horton, David Bostwick, Timothy Jones, Eliab Byram, Timothy Syms, John Grant, Jacob Green, Aaron Richards, Caleb Smith, Silas Leonard, Joseph Lamb, William Tennent, Eleazer Wales, Charles McKnight, Job Prudden, Robert Sturgeon, Samuel and John Blair, Charles Tennent, Andrew Sterling.

Mr. Lamb, the last year's moderator, being absent, Mr. Gilbert Tennent opened the Synod by a sermon on 2 Cor. v. 11.

Mr. Pierson chosen moderator, Mr. Finly clerk.

Mr. Elihu Spencer is admitted to sit in the Synod as correspondent.

The members absent the last year, and now present, gave their reasons for their absence, which were sustained.

The Rev. Mr. Dean has been removed by death since our last meeting.

The Presbytery of Suffolk, by their delegate Mr. James Brown, signified to the Synod their acceptance of the terms proposed to them the last session, and said Presbytery are accordingly admitted into our Synod, in consequence whereof Mr. Ebenezer Prime and Mr. James Brown, members of said Presbytery being present, are now admitted to sit in the Synod as members.

And the Synod recommends to those members of New York who dwell upon Long Island, to join the Presbytery of Suffolk as members thereof.

Mr. Cummins fulfilled the appointment of our last in going to Virginia.

Mr. Hunter was prevented of fulfilling his appointments by reason of sickness.

Motion was made by some members for making proposals for an union with the Synod of Philadelphia, the further consideration of which is deferred till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to seven of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

18*th day, at seven of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The motion for making proposals of union to the Synod of Philadelphia, reassumed, and after much reasoning upon it, it was carried by a great majority of votes, that proposals for an union be made to the Synod of Philadelphia in the following words, viz:

The Synod of New York are deeply sensible of the many unhappy consequences that flow from our present divided state, and have with pleasure observed a spirit of moderation increasing between many of the members of both Synods; this opens a door of hope, that if we were united in one body, we might be able to carry on the designs of religion in future peace and agreement to our mutual satisfaction; and though we retain the same sentiments of the work of God which we formerly did, yet we esteem mutual forbearance our duty, since we all profess the same Confession of Faith and Directory of Worship. We would, therefore, humbly propose to our brethren of the Synod of Philadelphia, that all our former differences be buried in perpetual oblivion, and that for the time to come, both Synods be united into one, and that henceforth there be no contentions among us; but to carry towards each other in the most peaceable and brotherly manner, which we are persuaded will be for the honour of our Master, the credit of our profession, and the edification of the churches committed to our care. Accordingly we appoint the Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Gilbert Tennent, Ebenezer Pemberton, and Aaron Burr, to be our delegates to wait upon the Synod of Philadelphia with these proposals.

And if the Synod of Philadelphia see meet to join with us in this design, and will please to appoint a commission to meet for that purpose, we appoint the Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Aaron Burr, Gilbert and William Tennent, Richard Treat, Samuel or John Blair, John Roan, Samuel Finly, Ebenezer Prime, David Bostwick, and James Brown, (whom we appoint a commission of the Synod for the ensuing year,) to meet with the commission of the Synod of Philadelphia, at such time and place as they shall choose, to determine the affair of the union, agreeable to the preliminary articles concluded upon by this Synod; and it is agreed that any other of our members who shall please to meet with the commission, shall have liberty of voting and acting in said affair equally with the members of said commission. Which articles proposed as a general plan of union are as follows, viz:

1. To preserve the common peace, we would propose that all names of distinction which have been made use of in the late times, be for ever abolished.

2. That every member assent unto and adopt the Confession of Faith and Directory, according to the plan formerly agreed to by the Synod of Philadelphia in the years ——.

3. That every member promise, that after any question has been determined by the major vote, he will actively concur or passively submit to the judgment of the body; but if his conscience permit him to do neither of these, that then he shall be obliged peaceably to withdraw from our Synodical communion, without any attempt to make a schism or division among us. Yet this is not intended to extend to any cases but those which the Synod judges essential in matters of doctrine or discipline.

4. That all our respective congregations and vacancies be acknowledged as congregations belonging to the Synod, but continue under the care of the same Presbytery as now they are, until a favourable opportunity presents for an advantageous alteration.

5. That we all agree to esteem and treat it as a censurable evil, to accuse any of our members of error in doctrine or immorality in conversation, any otherwise than by private reproof, till the accusation has been brought before a regular judicature and issued according to the known rules of our discipline.

Upon a representation of the desolate circumstances of Virginia and Maryland, the Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Prime, Davenport, Youngs, and Spencer, to write to the Eastern Association of Fairfield county, in Connecticut, requesting them, if possible, to send some minister or ministers, to supply some time in those southern provinces. Also, Mr. Davenport is appointed, if he recovers a good state of health, to go and supply in Virginia.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at Maidenhead, unless a different time and place be appointed by the commission. Concluded with prayer.

1750.

The Synod met according to appointment,

Maidenhead, May 16*th*, 1750. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Aaron Burr, Eliab Byram, David Bostwick, Jacob Green, Caleb Smith, Thomas Arthur, Aaron Richards, James Davenport, Richard Treat, William Tennent, Charles McKnight, James McCrea, Timothy Allen, Thomas Lewis, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Israel Read, Samuel Sacket, Samuel Blair, John Blair, John Roan, Samuel Davis, Andrew Bay, John Rogers, Azariah Horton.

Elders: Messrs. Peter Beach, Cornelius Wynkoop, Robert Cummins, Richard

Walker, William Lynn, Moses Hallam, Joseph Peck, William Boyd, Samuel Morris, William Murphey.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Simon Horton, Timothy Jones, Enos Ayres, Timothy Syms, John Brainerd, John Grant, Elihu Spencer, Robert Sturgeon, Gilbert Tennent, Samuel Finly, Charles Tennent, Andrew Sterling, James Campbell, and all of the Presbytery of Suffolk except Azariah Horton.

Mr. Pierson, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Colos. i. 18.

Mr. William Tennent chosen moderator, Mr. Arthur clerk.

The reasons sent in excuse for the present absence of Messrs. Charles Tennent, Samuel Finly, and Simon Horton, are sustained.

The Rev. Mr. Lamb is removed by death since our last session.

The minutes of our last session could not be obtained at present, and therefore the Synod was necessitated to proceed without them.

Ordered, That any member of the Synod who may have them, or any other of the minutes of this Synod since its first erection, in their keeping, take care to produce them at the next session.

The committee appointed by the last Synod to wait upon the Synod of Philadelphia, with a preliminary plan for an union, make report that they complied with said appointment, and in consequence thereof a commission of both Synods agreed to meet at Trenton, the first Wednesday of October, 1749, and met accordingly.

Ordered, That the minutes of that meeting be laid before the Synod, which being done, the Synod ordered them to be inserted in their minutes, and they are as follows, viz.

"*Trenton, October 4th,* 1749.

"Met according to an agreement between the commissioners of the Synod of New York and the Synod of Philadelphia, the commission of both Synods to treat upon an overture of union between the said Synods, offered to the Synod of Philadelphia by the Synod of New York.

"Present of the Synod of Philadelphia: Messrs. Cross, Alison, Cathcart, Boyd, McHenry, Cowell, Griffith, and Thom.

"Of the Synod of New York: Messrs. Pierson, Pemberton, Gilbert and William Tennent, Treat, Samuel and John Blair, Lewis, Finly, Roan, and Arthur.

"N. B. In the appointment of the commission of the Synod of New York, liberty was expressly granted to any of their members, though not in commission, to attend and have equal liberty of voting with the commissioners if they were inclined so to do.

"*Post preces sederunt qui supra,* with divers members of the Synod of New York.

"Mr. David Cowell was chosen moderator, Mr. Thomas Arthur clerk.

"Several members of the Synod of New York, that had not been present at forming the general plan for an union, moved that before the commissioners entered upon the affair of the union, they might have a private conference with the members of their own Synod, that they might be fully acquainted with each other's sentiments relating to the union, and also further inform themselves as to the general concessions made in the aforesaid plan, or preliminary articles, or by their committee; which motion was granted.

"Adjourned to eight of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

"*Thursday, 5th day, met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"The commissioners of the Synod of New York considering the protest of the Synod of Philadelphia, whereby they excluded from their communion the Presbytery of New Brunswick and their adherents, as one principal bar to an union, waiving all other matters, immediately insisted that said protest should, by some authentic and formal act of the Synod of Philadelphia, be made null and void. The debates on this head arose very high, and there appearing no prospect of accommodating matters, the commissioners of both Synods came unanimously into this conclusion, viz. That whereas certain difficulties arose in the conversation of the commissioners of both Synods, they came finally and unanimously into this agreement, that both Synods at their next sessions do more fully prepare proposals for an accommodation, and interchange said proposals, and that in the mean time, there be a mutual endeavour to cultivate a spirit of candour and friendship. At the same time these three principal things were especially recommended to the consideration of their respective Synods. 1. The protest. 2. That paragraph about essentials. 3. Of Presbyteries. Concluded with prayer."

The affair of the union was taken under consideration, according to the conclusion of the commissioners of both Synods as aforesaid. But the Synod is sorry to find that it is not in their power to proceed to make further proposals at this session, for want of the last year's minutes, and a copy of the former plan of preliminary articles, occasioned by the absence of their former clerk. But still they profess their design to enter upon the affair at their next sessions, and in the mean time to maintain a spirit of candour and friendship.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be sent to the Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennent, who is hereby appointed to deliver it in to the Synod of Philadelphia, at the beginning of their next sessions.

Upon application made by Mr. Davis in behalf of the people in the southern colonies, the Synod do recommend to the Presbytery of New Brunswick to endeavour to prevail with Mr. John Todd, upon his being licensed, to take a journey thither; and also to the Presbytery of New York, to urge the same upon Messrs. Syms and Greenman.

Mr. Davenport is appointed to go into Virginia to assist in supplying the numerous vacant and destitute congregations there. The same is also recommended to the Rev. Mr. Byram.

Adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

17*th day, at eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

An affair of the congregation of Tehicken was brought into the Synod by a reference from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, which the Synod proceeded to consider, and ordered the parties concerned to lay the case before them in order to be determined, which was accordingly done; and after much was said, many papers read, and all persons had offered what they thought proper with respect to the matter in controversy, the Synod came into the following conclusion, viz. That whereas the congregation of Tehicken is sadly divided about the fairness and obligation of a lot made use of by them for the determining the place for their meeting-house, the Synod, after a full hearing the case, came unanimously into this judgment, viz. that though they do by all means discountenance the method of ending such matters of controversy by lottery, yet as to the lot under debate, the Synod is of the opinion, that

it was fairly cast, and consequently binding upon the parties concerned, as also other former agreements said people have solemnly obliged themselves to; and the Synod doth judge, that they have acted very sinfully who have broken through these repeated solemn obligations, and that a solemn admonition be given unto them by Mr. Pemberton in the name of the Synod; which was accordingly done.

The last year's commission continued for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the fourth Thursday in September next, to meet at Newark.

Concluded with prayer.

The Synod met according to adjournment,

Newark, September 27th, 1750. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Azariah Horton, James Brown, David Youngs, Ebenezer Pemberton, John Pierson, Aaron Burr, Timothy Jones, Jacob Green, John Grant, Caleb Smith, Aaron Richards, Timothy Syms, Daniel Thane, Thomas Arthur, Enos Ayres, Elihu Spencer, William Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Thomas Lewis, Daniel Lawrence, Timothy Allen, Israel Read, Samuel Finly, Simon Horton.

Elders: John Smith, David Ray, John Lyle.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Silvanus White, Samuel Bewel, James McCrea, Gilbert Tennent, Job Prudden, Samuel Sacket, Andrew Hunter, James Davenport, Samuel Blair, John Blair, John Roan, Charles Tennent, Andrew Bay, Samuel Davis, John Rogers, James Campbell, Andrew Sterling, Alexander Hutchinson.

Mr. Prime chosen moderator, Mr. Smith clerk.

The Synod was opened by a sermon preached by Mr. Cummins from Rom. viii. 15.

The Rev. Mr. Eleazer Wales is removed by death since our last session.

Adjourned till two of the clock, *post meridiem.* Concluded with prayer.

Two of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra

The minutes of the Synod since their first erection being, according to the order of our last, brought into the Synod, they appoint Mr. Treat to transcribe them into a book that they be not lost, and that he be henceforth their stated clerk for that purpose.

The reasons given by the present members of their absence the last session were sustained.

The affair of the union with the Synod of Philadelphia, came under consideration, and the Synod appoints Messrs. Treat, William Tennent, Finly, Green, and Spencer, to be a committee to draw up proposals upon that head to be brought in at their next *sederunt.*

The High Dutch congregation of Rockway, in the township of Lebanon, applied to the Synod that they may be taken under the care of this Synod, and that a certain person now preaching among them may be taken under examination, and if approved, ordained a minister to them. The Synod, in order to clear their way to transact any thing with said people, do appoint Mr. Pemberton to make inquiry of the Dutch ministers in New York, whether said people do belong to their jurisdiction; and he is to acquaint a committee of the Synod how that matter is. And the Synod appoints Messrs. Pierson, Burr, Arthur, Smith, and Spencer, their committee, to sit at such time and place as they shall appoint, and transact in said affair, according as things shall then appear to them.

Upon a representation made by Mr. Beatty of the necessitous circumstances

of the congregation of Cape May, and their earnest request that some minister, or candidate, might be sent down to them and settle with them, the Synod appoints Mr. Davenport to go and spend the winter with them for that purpose, if consistent with his affairs.

Adjourned till eight of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, at eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Pemberton, Pierson, Burr, Arthur, Gilbert and William Tennent, Treat, Finly, Samuel and John Blair, Azariah Horton, Brown, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for this year.

The Synod making inquiry how the several appointments for Virginia have been fulfilled, do find that Mr. Davenport has been there, and that Mr. Todd is licensed, and preparing speedily to go; but that the other appointments by one means or other have failed.

The committee according to appointment, brought in a draught of proposals for an union with the Synod of Philadelphia, which the Synod approve, and they are as follow, viz.

1. That every member assent unto and receive the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as the confession of his faith, according to the plan formerly mentioned and proposed, and also agree to the Directory as the general plan of worship and discipline.

2. That all matters shall be determined by a majority of votes, to which determination all shall submit; but if any member or members cannot, in conscience submit to any particular act or determination of the body, he or they shall be obliged, after sufficient liberty of reasoning and modest remonstration, to withdraw from our Synodical communion. Provided always, that this last article shall not extend to any cases but such as the Synod shall judge to be essential in doctrine, worship, or discipline.

3. That it shall be treated as a censurable misconduct, for any member to charge any of his brethren with errors in doctrine or immorality in conversation, except in a way of private reproof or judicial process. And that none shall be judicially condemned or censured without a fair trial and process, according to the known rules of our discipline.

4. That no candidate shall be taken upon trials by any Presbytery, without a degree or a certificate from the president, and a sufficient number of the tutors or trustees of some college, testifying to the sufficiency of his learning; except in cases extraordinary, in which the Presbyteries shall be accountable to the Synod for their conduct.

5. That it shall be treated as irregular, for any minister or candidate to preach or perform other ministerial offices in the congregations of other ministers belonging to our body, contrary to their minds. On the other hand it shall be esteemed unbrotherly for any minister to refuse his consent, (without weighty reasons,) when amicably desired.

6. That all the several Presbyteries belonging to both Synods respectively, shall continue distinct Presbyteries as now they are, and that the several congregations and vacancies may continue to be under the same Presbyteries as at present.

7. That the protestation made in the Synod of Philadelphia in the year 1741, be declared henceforth void and of none effect, and that the proposed union shall not be understood to imply an agreement or consent to said protestation on the part of this Synod.

8. Forasmuch as this Synod doth believe, (as they have before declared,) that

a glorious work of God's Spirit was carried on in the late religious appearances, (though we doubt not but there were several follies and extravagancies of people, and artifices of Satan intermixed therewith,) it would be pleasing and desirable to us, and what we hope for, that both Synods may come so far to agree in their sentiments about it, as to give their joint testimony thereto.

Ordered, That Mr. Treat, the stated clerk, transcribe these proposals and deposit a true copy thereof in the hands of Mr. Samuel Hazard of Philadelphia, to be delivered to the Synod of Philadelphia, or their order, when he shall have received their proposals.

The Synod adjourned to the day after the commencement the ensuing year, and then to sit at Newark. Concluded with prayer.

1751.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Newark, September 26th, 1751. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime and Azariah Horton.

Of the New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, James Davenport, David Bostwick, Jacob Green, Caleb Smith, John Brainerd, Elihu Spencer, Daniel Thane, Enos Ayres, John Moffett, Chauncey Graham.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: Messrs. William Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles McKnight, Charles Beatty, Eliab Byram, Thomas Lewis, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Israel Read, Samuel Kennedy, Benjamin Chesnutt.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: Messrs. James Campbell, Samuel Finly, John Blair, Samuel Davis, John Rogers. Mr. John Smith correspondent.

Elders: Messrs. John Ball, John Henderson, Anthony Scout, Hugh Marten, John Kirkpatrick, Philip Celsel, Allin Killock, Daniel Morris, Aaron Trueheart, Jonathan Holms, Elias Bayley.

Ministers absent. Of Long Island Presbytery: Messrs. Silvanus White, James Brown, Samuel Bewel, Naphtali Dagget, David Youngs, Samuel Sackett.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Timothy Syms, Timothy Jones, John Grant, Aaron Richards, Alexander Cummins, Jonathan Elmore.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, James McCrea, Timothy Allen, Job Prudden, John Campbell, John Todd.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Charles Tennent, John Roan, Andrew Sterling, Andrew Bay, Hugh Henry.

Mr. John Blair chosen moderator, Mr. Byram clerk.

Mr. Prime, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Psal. cii. 16.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Blair and Thomas Arthur, are departed this life since the last Synod.

A petition was sent into the Synod by the trustees of the college of New Jersey, desiring that the Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Pemberton might be appointed to make a voyage to Europe to solicit benefactions for said college; and likewise, requesting that some members of the Synod might be appointed to go immediately to New York, to treat with Mr. Pemberton's congregation upon said affair. The Synod taking this matter into consideration, do appoint Messrs. Aaron Burr, Richard Treat, William Tennent, and Samuel Davis, to be a com-

mittee to go immediately to New York, and treat with Mr. Pemberton's congregation upon said affair.

Adjourned to three of the clock, *post meridiem.* Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The excuses of Messrs. Hunter, Davenport, James Campbell, Rogers, and the moderator, for their absence from the last Synod, are sustained.

The committee to whom the affair of the Dutch congregation of Rockway was referred the last Synod, do make report, that difficulties arising in their way from time to time, they have not been able to do any thing in it. And application being again made to the Synod by said congregation, desiring they would take the said affair under their care; the Synod do refer it to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, to transact in it according as they shall judge best, when matters are fully laid before them.

The Synod find that Mr. Davenport fulfilled his appointment in going to Cape May.

Messrs. Pierson, Pemberton, Burr, Spencer, Gilbert and William Tennent, Treat, Finly, Rogers, Prime, Azariah Horton, Brown, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the ensuing year.

Proposals of accommodation from the Synod of Philadelphia, (in compliance with the agreement of the commissions of both Synods at Trenton, mentioned in the preceding minutes, page 23,) were brought into the Synod and read, the consideration of which deferred till the next *sederunt.* [See page 204.]

The Synod understanding that one Vandreron, a Dutch preacher, going from place to place, does much disturb some of our congregations, and being a person of gross enormities and scandals, the Synod judge it to be their duty to admonish all the people under their care to avoid the said Vandreron, and give no countenance to his preaching.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Prime absent, having obtained leave to go home.

The Synod being informed of certain misrepresentations concerning the constitution, order, and discipline of our churches, industriously spread by some of the members of the Dutch congregations, interspersed among or bordering upon us, with design to prevent occasional or constant communion of their members with our churches; to obviate all such misrepresentations, and to cultivate a good understanding between us and our brethren of the Dutch churches, we do hereby declare and testify our constitution, order, and discipline, to be in harmony with the established church of Scotland. The Westminster Confession, Catechisms, and Directory for public worship and church government adopted by them, are in like manner received and adopted by us. We declare ourselves united with that church in the same faith, order, and discipline. Its approbation, countenance, and favour, we have abundant testimonies of. They, as brethren, receive us; and their members, we, as opportunity offers, receive as ours. And as the church of Scotland, and the Reformed churches abroad, agreeable to the Geneva Platform, hold a ready and free communion with each other, so we also desire the same with our brethren of the Dutch and French churches, interspersed amongst and bordering upon us.

The exigencies of the great affair of propagating the gospel among the hea-

then, being represented unto the Synod, the Synod, in order to promote so important and valuable a design, do enjoin all their members to appoint a collection in their several congregations once every year, to be applied for that purpose; and that the money raised by such collections be yearly sent to the Synod.

The Synod do, moreover, recommend to all their members, as far as prudence may direct, to make another annual collection for the support of young students, whose circumstances render them incapable to maintain themselves at learning, and for other charitable purposes; which contributions shall be at the disposal of such respective Presbyteries where they are made.

A petition of a number of the members of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, praying to be erected into a distinct Presbytery, was brought into the Synod, the further consideration of it deferred till the next *sederunt*.

A petition from a number of the inhabitants of Tinnicum or Tehicken, praying for liberty for supplies at the place called the Old House. The Synod, after hearing what they had to offer in support of said petition, and after consideration thereon, do unanimously reject said petition.

The consideration of the proposals of the Synod of Philadelphia in order to union, taken under consideration, and the Synod appoint Messrs. Pierson, Finly, Smith, Beatty, and the moderator, to draw up an answer and lay it before the Synod the next *sederunt*.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the petition of some members of the Presbytery of New Brunswick was resumed, and after hearing what they had to offer in support thereof, the Synod agree to grant said petition, and do erect that part of the Presbytery of New Brunswick that live in Pennsylvania, together with those who live in New Jersey, to the southward of Philadelphia, bordering upon Delaware, into a distinct Presbytery by the name of the Presbytery of Abington, and also appoint their first meeting to be at Philadelphia the third Wednesday in May next.

The committee appointed to draw up something in answer to the proposals of the Synod of Philadelphia, laid before the Synod what they had done, which the Synod approve, and is as follows, viz.

The proposals of the Synod of Philadelphia for union with this Synod were opened and read. The Synod after deliberate perusal of them are pleased in observing any steps taken towards the uniting the two Synods, and that our brethren of the Philadelphia Synod profess a peaceable disposition, and determine to concur with our proposals as closely and as far as they can, in their present view of things. But as they have not seen fit to comply with some of the particulars proposed by us so closely as we could have wished, we judge it becomes our professions, and our endeavours for peace, to be candidly open and free in pointing out those things from which we disagree in their present plan of accommodation.

1. Though the Synod should make no acts but concerning matters of plain duty, or opinions relating to the great truths of religion, yet as every thing that appears plain duty and truth unto the body, may appear at the same time not to be essential, so we judge that no member or members should be obliged to withdraw from our communion upon his or their not being able actively to concur, or passively submit, unless the matter be judged essential in doctrine or discipline.

2. We cannot agree that all the public and fundamental agreements of the

Synod of Philadelphia should stand safe, if this is understood to extend to agreements made by said Synod since the rupture happened.

3. We cannot see that it will consist with the peace and edification of the church to use any coercive measures to oblige people to be under the ministry of those whom they do not choose, or to dissolve and new model Presbyteries.

4. Seeing by the goodness of Divine Providence we have now a college erected, we see no necessity for the alternative of the Synod or their commission examining candidates before they be admitted to Presbyterial trials.

As the Synod of Philadelphia had not our last proposals before them when they drew up the present plan of accommodation, we refer them to said proposals, as to what we further desire in order to our union with them.

Ordered, That the clerk send an attested copy of the above to Mr. Samuel Hazard, of Philadelphia, to be delivered to the moderator of the Synod at Philadelphia.

The distressing circumstances of Virginia being represented to the Synod, they appoint Mr Greenman to go into Virginia as soon as possibly he can, and supply there for some time.

A motion being made to the Synod by Mr. Davis, of the necessity of sending to England an account relating to the dissenting interest in Virginia, the Synod does order that a representation of the circumstances of the Presbyterian congregations in that colony be made and signed in the name of the Synod, by Messrs. Burr and Pemberton, to Dr. Doddridge and Dr. Avery, and also a certificate of Mr. Davis's character.

The committee sent to New York by the Synod on the petition of the trustees of the college, returned and reported that their attempts were to no purpose in the affair of their mission.

Adjourned to the day after the commencement of the ensuing year, and then to meet at Newark. Concluded with prayer.

1752.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Newark, September 28th, 1752. *Ubi sederunt post preces,*

Ministers: Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, James Davenport, Jacob Green, David Bostwick, Caleb Smith, John Brainerd, Elihu Spencer, Daniel Thane, Chauncey Graham, William Tennent, Andrew Hunter, Timothy Allen, Israel Read, Eliab Byram, Thomas Lewis, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Daniel Lawrence, Samuel Finly, Azariah Horton, Aaron Richards, Alexander Cummins, Job Prudden, Conrad Worts, John Grant, Naphtali Dagget.

Elders: James Kilburn, Joseph Kerr.

Ministers absent: Enos Ayers, John Moffort, Timothy Jones, Jonathan Elmore, Charles McKnight, James McCrea, Samuel Kennedy, John Todd, Gilbert Tennent, Benjamin Chesnutt, John Campbell, James Campbell, John Blair, John Rogers, Charles Tennent, John Roan, Andrew Sterling, Andrew Bay, Hugh Henry, Ebenezer Prime, Silvanus White, Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Samuel Sacket, James Finly, Robert Smith.

Mr. Treat chosen moderator, Mr. Samuel Finly clerk.

Our last year's moderator being absent the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Edwards, at the request of the members, opened the Synod with a sermon on James ii. 19.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. David Youngs has departed this life since our last.

Mr. Cummins, Mr. Richards, Mr. Grant, Mr. Dagget, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Prudden, gave the reasons of their absence the last Synod, which were sustained.

According to appointment of Synod, the Presbytery of New Brunswick examined the affair of the Dutch congregation at Rockway, and ordained Mr. Worts to be their minister.

Messrs. Pierson, Pemberton, Burr, Spencer, Gilbert and William Tennent, Finly, Rogers, Prime, Azariah Horton, Brown, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Inquiry into the affair of the collection for the Indians, appointed the last Synod, deferred until another *sederunt.*

The clerk reports that he complied with the order of sending an attested copy of our last year's proposals to Mr. Hazard, to be given in to the Synod of Philadelphia; in consequence of which, and the proposals of this Synod in the year 1750, the Synod of Philadelphia sent a letter of remarks and proposals, which being read, the consideration of them deferred till to-morrow. [See page 205.]

Mr. Greenman's reasons for his not going to Virginia, according to the appointment of the last Synod, are sustained.

The Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Edwards, John Smith, and —— Hopkins, being present, do join as correspondents.

A reference from the Presbytery of New York concerning some matters of difference among the members of the Presbyterian congregation of New York, which were laid before said Presbytery, was brought into the Synod, and after hearing many things in relation thereto, the Synod deferred the further examination thereof till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

29 *day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Only Mr. Lewis departed without leave.

The Synod proceeded to make inquiry concerning the collection for the Indians, and it was found that all the members present made collections except Messrs. William Tennent, Davenport, Byram, Beatty, Richards, Grant, Dagget, Simon Horton, and Read, who propose afterwards to collect and send their collections to Mr. Brainerd. Ordered, also, that the collections brought to the Synod be paid into the hands of Mr. Brainerd, to be disposed of by the correspondents for the Indian affairs.

A motion being made to the Synod by the trustees of the college of New Jersey to obtain a public collection from all the congregations belonging to the Synod, and the Synod having taken the matter into consideration, do unanimously approve the motion, and earnestly recommend it to all the Presbyteries to see that every one of their members do endeavour to collect money in their respective congregations for that purpose; and also in vacancies, where they have opportunity so to do; and the Synod order, that all other public collections before appointed by them to be annually observed, be suspended on that account.

The Synod do likewise order that the said collection for the college be made betwixt this time and May next, and that an account of what is gathered by every Presbytery, be transmitted to the President of the college by each Presbytery.

The consideration of the proposals of the Synod of Philadelphia, in order to an union, further deferred.

The affair of the reference from the Presbytery of New York reassumed, and the pleas of all parties being fully heard, the Synod defer the judicial determination thereof till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till half an hour after two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Half an hour after two, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Davis is come to the Synod; his not coming in the beginning of this session occasioned by mistaking the time of their meeting.

The Synod agree to desire the Rev. Mr. Edwards to publish his sermon preached before them.

Upon a representation of the destitute circumstances of Virginia, &c. the Synod appoint Mr. Greenman and Mr. Robert Henry, to go there some time betwixt this and the next Synod.

Whereas a certain person pretending at Egg Harbour to be a minister regularly ordained among the Presbyterians, and under that character baptized some adults and infants, and it appearing to the Synod that his pretences were false, having at that time no license or ordination, it is our opinion that all the gospel ordinances he administered under that false and pretended character are null and invalid.

The proposals of the Synod of Philadelphia came to be considered, and the Synod finding they had not time to go through with them this session, agreed upon the following answer, to be sent to them by the stated clerk.

Very Reverend and dear Brethren: We have received your letter. The great crowd of Synodical affairs now upon our hands, renders it impossible for us to give it that attentive examination which the importance of the affair requires. We shall endeavour, as soon as we have opportunity, to give it a calm and deliberate consideration, and hope we shall return you such an answer as shall give you convincing evidence, that we entertain the most affectionate desires of peace and union upon such a bottom as may contribute to the edification and comfort of all our churches. In the mean time, it is our sincere inclination to evidence towards you all proper and friendly regards.

The affair of New York referred to the Synod as before mentioned, and heard at length, reassumed in order to a judgment, and the Synod having seriously and deliberately considered the sundry articles of debate and complaint laid before them, came into the following conclusions:

1. That the building, ground, &c. conveyed from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the Presbyterian Society in New York, belong to Presbyterians without distinction of name or nation, who conform to the general plan of the Church of Scotland as practised by the Synod of New York.

2. That it is not inconsistent with the Presbyterian plan of government, nor the institution of our Lord Jesus Christ, that trustees, or a committee chosen by the congregation, should have the disposal and application of the public money raised by said congregation, to the uses for which it was designed; provided that they leave in the hands and to the management of the deacons, what is collected for the Lord's table and the poor. And that ministers of the gospel, by virtue of their office, have no right to sit with or preside over such trustees or committees.

3. That it appears to the Synod, that the trustees of said church have faithfully discharged the trust reposed in them, with respect to its temporalities, much to its advantage.

4. That as to the articles of complaint brought against Mr. Cumming, it

appears to the Synod, that he has been necessarily hindered from performing his part in public service, by his low state of health; but they judge it his duty to discharge it according to his call when his health will admit; and when he is disabled, he should desire Mr. Pemberton to officiate in his room. That his insisting on a right to sit with the trustees in their conventions about the temporal affairs of the congregation, was not a violation of his ordination vows, which respect only the work of the ministry, although they judge he acted imprudently in so doing. That he is to be commended for insisting on persons praying in their families, who present their children to baptism; but inasmuch as it appears expedient, that the same form of covenanting should be used in the same church; the Synod do, therefore, recommend it to Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Cumming, to consult with the committee hereafter to be mentioned about a form that they can both agree in.

5. That the said church proceed as soon as may be, to the choice of elders to join with their ministers in the government and discipline of the church; and that the committee hereafter to be appointed do nominate the persons to be chosen, and determine the number.

6. That as to the methods taken to introduce a new version of the psalms in the public worship, the Synod judge it to be disorderly, and always to be discountenanced, when the parties in matters of debate in a church do carry about private subscriptions.

7. That as to the introduction of a new version of psalms, the Synod hath not light at present to determine, but do impower the committee to recommend Dr. Watts's version, if upon observation of circumstances they think it proper.

And the Synod do appoint the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Davis, Samuel Finly, and Charles Beatty, to be a committee to go immediately to New York, and direct and assist the Presbyterian congregation of New York in such affairs as may contribute to their peace and edification.

Adjourned to the first Wednesday of October, 1753, and then to meet at Philadelphia at three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1753.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Philadelphia, October 3d, 1753. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, Timothy Allen, David Bostwick, John Brainerd, Elihu Spencer.

Of Suffolk Presbytery: Mr. James Brown.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, Charles McKnight, Eliab Byram, Thomas Lewis, Israel Read, Samuel Kennedy, Conradus Wort.

Of Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Benjamin Chesnutt.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Charles Tennent, Samuel Finly, James Campbel, James Davenport, Evander Morrison, Samuel Davis, Andrew Bay, John Rogers, Hugh Henry, Robert Smith, James Finly, John Todd.

Elders: Messrs. Jacob Bedel, Robert Cummins, Hugh Marten, John Roy, Thomas Coon, Robert English, David Chambers, William Adams, Richard Walker, Jonathan Holmes, William McCrea, John Vandyke, Francis Alexander, Samuel Jamison, William Buchanan.

Ministers absent: Messrs. John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, John Smith, Silas Leonard, Jacob Green, Aaron Richards, Caleb Smith, Enos Ayres, Chauncey Graham, Alexander Cummins, John Moffett, Daniel Thane, Jonathan Elmore, Ebenezer Prime, Silvanus White,

Joseph Park, Samuel Sacket, John Maltby, Samuel Bewel, Napthali Dagget, James McCrea, Samuel Harker, Job Prudden, Alexander Hutchinson, Alexander Craighead, John Roan, John Blair, Andrew Stirling, John Wright, Robert Henry.

Messrs. John Grant and John Campbell, have departed this life since our last Synod.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Treat, the last year's moderator, by a sermon, on Heb. iii. 2.

Mr. Samuel Finly was chosen moderator, Mr. Bostwick chosen clerk.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Rogers were appointed to revise the Synod's book against the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

4th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Rogers complied with the appointment of the last *sederunt* in revising the Synod book, and brought their remarks, which the Synod approved.

The Synod do appoint, that Mr. Treat, who is the stated clerk, be allowed three pounds per annum, for his service in transcribing the minutes in their proper order into the Synod book; and that every minister endeavour to bring ten shillings annually, to defray the above mentioned charge, and for other exigencies that may happen, and that the same be lodged in the hands of Mr. Treat as the Synod's treasurer.

Messrs. Jones, McKnight, Todd, Kennedy, Gilbert Tennent, Rogers, Chesnutt, James Campbel, Charles Tennent, Bay, Hugh Henry, Silvanus White, and James Finly, gave the reasons for their absence the last year, which were sustained.

The following ministers were absent the last year as well as at this present meeting: Messrs. Enos Ayres, John Moffet, Jonathan Elmore, James McCrea, John Blair, John Roan, Andrew Sterling, Ebenezer Prime, Samuel Bewel.

The Synod order, that the last mentioned members be called to account for their absence.

Messrs. Pierson, Pemberton, Burr, Spencer, William and Charles Tennent, Treat, Rogers, Prime, Brown, Azariah Horton, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the ensuing year.

The Synod, upon inquiry concerning the collection appointed for the use of the college, do find they cannot go through with said affair, by reason of the absence of divers of their members, and do, therefore, refer it to each of their Presbyteries to make inquiry of each of their members, touching their compliance with said appointment, and take due care that their respective members do comply with it accordingly, and give an account of their conduct to the next Synod.

The Synod do appoint each of their Presbyteries to bring their Presbytery books to the next Synod in order to be examined.

The affair of union with the Synod of Philadelphia, referred to this Synod by our last, deferred to the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the union was brought under consideration, and the last proposals from the Synod of Philadelphia, &c. were read, and the Synod do appoint Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Davis, and the moderator, to prepare an answer thereto, and lay it before the Synod the next *sederunt.*

The committee appointed by the last Synod to go to New York to direct and assist the Presbyterian congregation in affairs relating to their peace and edification, make report of their compliance with said appointment. The minutes of their proceedings being laid before the Synod, are approved, and are as follows, viz.

"*New York, October 2d*, 1752.

"The committee appointed by the Synod to direct and assist the Presbyterian congregation of New York in such affairs as contribute to their peace and satisfaction, met, *ubi post preces sederunt*, Messrs. Samuel Finly, Charles Beatty, and Samuel Davis.

"Mr. Finley was chosen moderator, and Mr. Davis clerk.

"Ordered, That the minutes of the Synod containing their conclusions concerning the affair referred unto them by the Presbytery be read.

"The committee after the best inquiry they could make into the circumstances of the congregation, do conclude that but two persons should at present be chosen to sustain the office of elders, and that Messrs. David Vanhorn, and Israel Horsfield are proper persons for that purpose, and they do accordingly nominate the said persons to that office; and give public notice, that if any of the members of said congregation have any sufficient objections against either of them, they would bring them into the committee in the afternoon.

"Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

"*Three of the clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"Messrs. Vanhorn and Horsfield being spoken unto by the committee, and the peculiar exigency of the case being represented unto them, they consented to accept of the office for which they are nominated; and the congregation brought in no objections against them, but signified their consent by holding up their hands.

"The committee after careful inquiry and deliberation, do conclude, from the best views of the present disposition of affairs they can attain, that it is not expedient at present, judicially to recommend a change of the version of Psalms, lest the animosities in the congregation should be more inflamed; but they most earnestly recommend moderation, forbearance, and condescension to both parties, till such times as by the use of proper measures, they shall come to an agreement among themselves. Concluded with prayer."

Application was made to the Synod in behalf of the trustees of the College of New Jersey, requesting the Synod to appoint two of their members viz. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, and Samuel Davies, to take a voyage to Europe on the important affairs of said college; to which the Synod unanimously consent.

The congregation of Philadelphia, under the care of Mr. Tennent, requested that in the absence of their pastor, they may be supplied with such members of the Synod as they shall choose, till their next meeting; which was unanimously agreed unto.

Adjourned till nine of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

5th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed by the Synod to draw up an answer to the letter

sent to them by the Synod of Philadelphia, on the affair of the union, brought in said answer, which being read before the Synod, was approved, and is as follows, viz.

Reverend and dear Brethren,—Your remarks on our proposals for an union of the two Synods we have diligently perused, and must say, that some of them, at least, were unexpected to us. Our first proposals contained some generals; which, being too much so, were misconstrued by some on both sides. However, when the commissioners of both Synods met at Trenton, they easily saw that it was necessary, and accordingly agreed to be particular in their proposals for the future. For this reason we mentioned all those particulars which we desired might be conceded, or at least canvassed, when we come to confer more closely on the affair. And if matters are duly recollected, we presume that it will appear we have not receded from our own proposals in any particular.

1. We did propose that all former differences, upon our union, should be buried in perpetual oblivion. And we also proposed that the protestation entered in the Synod in the year 1741, should particularly be buried in oblivion, being declared void and of none effect. Nor can we see any inconsistency in proposing the general, and afterwards a particular contained under it. For so we viewed the matter. Now the protest must either be declared void, or not be buried in oblivion. As you declare it to be a judicial act, it must stand in full force and virtue unless it be nullified by an equal act. And thus our uniting without its repeal, would be an implicit approbation of it, contrary to our judgment. And further, your "looking upon the design of the protestation answered" by your terms of union, seems to favour what we heard was reported by some of your number, viz. that the protest was to be confirmed, and we to be received on that footing; which was given by the commission of our Synod at Trenton, as the reason of their mentioning said protest in particular. Nor have we any further design in insisting that it be declared void and of none effect, but that our uniting may not imply our approbation of it. And we think that your continuing to declare that "you are well satisfied that the protestation was made on sufficient and justifiable grounds, and that you are not, *in the least*, convinced that the Synod acted wrong in said step," is far from being an inducement to unite without an express repeal thereof.

2. As to the inconsistency mentioned in the second article, between our proposing that all differences should be buried in oblivion, and all names of distinction abolished, and our insisting that Presbyteries and congregations should continue as they are, we must remind you that both these particulars were expressly inserted in our first proposals, which you yourselves concluded to be pacific; and we could not have expected that this would now be considered as a receding further from an union, and from our own proposals in order thereto. Nor can we yet see that it is an inconsistency in fact, all things considered. For why might there not be an union of the two Synods, so that we might all be considered as one body, though Presbyteries and congregations continue as they are? If it seems a jarring concord, as we proposed it, it would be more so to force people into it faster than they have clearness to go. If then, we proposed an union on the best terms and footing that circumstances would allow, our proposals were most consistent in fact. And though the "concessions of our delegates, and our former proposals viz. that congregations as they are at present, should belong to the same Presbyteries they now do, till a favourable opportunity of an advantageous alteration might give you ground to apprehend that we would assent to the uniting of Presbyteries," yet it could not give ground to apprehend we would do so until that favourable opportunity presents, which we did not apprehend could be immediately upon the union of the Synods, much less antecedent thereto.

So that we have not in the least receded from our former concession in this point.

3. Our professing that mutual forbearance as to different sentiments respecting the late religious appearances, was our duty, since we all profess the same confession of faith and directory for worship; and our desiring and hoping for a joint testimony to the late glorious work of God, are not inconsistent, inasmuch as the manner in which we have proposed this particular is different from that of the others. And though it would be inconsistent with our former judgment, peremptorily to insist on it as a term of union, yet it's not inconsistent to speak of it, and desire an agreement about it, and leave room to make trial how far we could agree therein; and this was our design in that particular. And if we could agree to unite in other things, it cannot be denied but agreement in a matter of that importance would be desirable and worth attempting. And as we know not but upon friendly conference about it, the difference perhaps would not be so great as it has seemed, we thought it might very well be proposed in the manner in which we have done it. At the same time it is also plain that there is no inconsistency between our present proposal and our declared sentiments, that difference in judgment should not oblige a dissenting member to withdraw from our communion, unless the matter were judged by the body to be essential in doctrine or discipline. And this we must own is an important article with us, which we cannot any way dispense with; and it appears to us to be strictly Christian and scriptural, as well as Presbyterian, otherwise we must make every thing that appears plain duty to us, a term of communion, which we apprehend the Scripture prohibits. And it appears plain to us that there may be many opinions relating to the great truths of religion, that are not great themselves, nor of sufficient importance to be made terms of communion. Nor can these sentiments "open a door to an unjustifiable latitude in principles and practices," any more than the apostolic prohibition of receiving those that are weak to doubtful disputations. What is plain sin and plain duty in one's account, is not so in another's; and the Synod has still in their power to judge what is essential and what is not. In order to prevent an unjustifiable latitude, we must not make terms of communion which Christ has not made; and we are convinced that he hath not made every truth and every duty a term.

As to the true stating of what we believe to be the glorious work of God's Spirit in the late religious appearances, that we judged, and do judge, could properly be done when both Synods came to confer about it. Though our public prints have not been silent on that head. Nor have we left even "the more simple and ignorant," who inclined to give heed to us, without the means of distinguishing between "the work of God's Spirit and their own follies, or the artifices of Satan." So that if they yet "continue in the mistake," it is not of us.

4. As to "the intrusions of disorderly ministers into your congregations, so that they are rendered incapable to perform their solemn engagements to their pastors," of which you complain, and also "that no regard was to be paid to your repeated desires and public votes, that young men should have certificates from some college," without retorting to the former, we only observe that these complaints are proper if we are to overhaul old debates, and come to be judged before you; but permit us to request that they may not come into pacific proposals; for, as each side pretend to justify themselves in many things of which the other accuses, such criminations can have no propriety, nor tendency to peace and re-union, but rather to provoke recriminations, and are but a begging the question, or taking for granted what is in dispute. We have thought it our duty to avoid them as an incongruity, and inconsistent with our proposals. If we sincerely seek peace, let us speak and act so as

has a tendency to promote it, and none to subvert it. We do not presume to treat you as criminals on the present footing, and we expect to be treated as a judicature on equal ground. But were each side candidly disposed to make the utmost acknowledgments to the other, of past wrongs, which they possibly could with a clear judgment and conscience, then these things might properly be pointed out and proposed to consideration, and this might answer a valuable end.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be sent to the Synod of Philadelphia, at their next session, by the Synod's stated clerk.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Motion being made by William McCrea in behalf of the congregation at Whiteclay Creek, for a copy of the original plan of the constitution of this Synod, they order the same to be given them by their stated clerk.

The like motion was made by David Chambers in behalf of the new erected Presbyterian congregation in Philadelphia, which was also granted.

A representation being made to the Synod by Mr. Pemberton, and several members of the Presbyterian congregation in New York, of the divided state of said congregation, requesting the assistance of the Synod in their distressed case, the Synod do appoint Messrs. William Tennent, Samuel Davies, Aaron Burr, Caleb Smith, David Bostwick, Elihu Spencer, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, and John Rogers, to be a committee to meet at New York on the fourth Wednesday of instant October, at ten of the clock, A. M., with full power and authority to transact such things with respect to said congregation, as they shall judge necessary for the healing of the divisions of said congregation, and best interest of religion therein.

It being moved to the Synod, what they judge necessary as to the form or method to be used in the administration of baptism, the Synod do refer to our excellent Directory in that case.

It being further moved to the Synod, whether a church session hath power to introduce a new version of psalms into the congregation to which they belong, without the consent of the majority of said congregation; it was voted in the negative, *nemine contradicente.*

A draught of an address from this Synod to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was brought into the Synod and being read, the Synod appoint Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Spencer, Allen, and Treat, a committee to revise said draught and bring it in the next *sederunt.*

The Synod do also appoint said committee to draw up certificates for Mr. Tennent and Mr. Davies.

The Synod taking into consideration how to supply Mr. Davies's congregation during his absence, do appoint Messrs. Blair, Bay, Henry, James Finly, and Rogers, and the particular seasons of their supplying to be adjusted and fixed by the Presbytery of New Castle to which they belong, and the Synod do appoint said Presbytery to supply their respective congregations in their absence as much as they can. And to assist therein, the Synod do appoint Mr. Lewis to supply two Sabbaths in Fag's Mannor, and one for the Forks of Brandywine before the next Synod.

The Synod also appoint Mr. Lawrence to supply Mr. Henry's congregation four Sabbaths, to begin with the third Sabbath in May. They also appoint Mr. Allen to supply St. George's four Sabbaths in April, beginning with the first.

Adjourned to nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

6th day, at nine of the clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod do recommend it to the several Presbyteries belonging to their body, to call those sessions to account that do not send elders to attend upon the Synod and Presbyteries, and to enjoin these sessions to call those elders to an account that do not attend upon judicatories, when sent by them.

For the supplying of Mr. Gilbert Tennent's congregation for this year, the Synod do appoint Mr. Treat to supply four Sabbaths in November, if need be; Mr. William Tennent the four first Sabbaths in December; Mr. Beatty the last Sabbath in December and the three first in January; Mr. Charles Tennent the last Sabbath in January and the three first in February; Mr. Davenport the last Sabbath in February and the three first in March; Mr. Greenman the two last Sabbaths in March; Mr. Burr the four Sabbaths in April; Mr. Pemberton the four Sabbaths in May; Mr. Finly the four first Sabbaths in June; Mr. Greenman the last Sabbath in June and the first in July; Mr. Cummins the three last in July and first in August; Mr. Kennedy the three last in August and first in September; Mr. Spencer the three last in September and first in October; Mr. Bostwick the four last in October.

The Synod do moreover appoint, that if any of these cannot fulfil said appointments, the Presbytery to which they belong shall, without fail, send others in their stead.

The Synod appoint the Presbytery of Suffolk, to supply New York and Jamaica in the absence of their ministers; that is to say, New York the whole of the time, provided they were otherwise totally vacant, and Jamaica the one half of the time.

The Synod also appoint that Mr. Spencer's congregation be supplied in his absence, the whole of the time, at the request of his excellency the governor.

And that each Presbytery do, as much as they can, to supply the absence of their respective members.

The Synod do appoint Mr. Brainerd to supply Hanover, in Virginia, the four last Sabbaths in March next.

That Mr. Beatty supply three Sabbaths at Fag's Manor and in the Forks of Brandywine, before next Synod.

Mr. Moffet is appointed to supply Mr. Beatty's congregation those three Sabbaths, and Mr. Horton is appointed to inform Mr. Moffet of the same, that he may seasonably acquaint Mr. Beatty when he can come.

The committee appointed to revise the draught of the address to the General Assembly, presented the same, which being read was unanimously approved.*

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* A copy of the address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

To the very venerable and honourable the moderator and other members of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to meet at Edinburgh, May, 1754. The petition of the Synod of New York, convened at Philadelphia, October 3, 1753, humbly showeth:

That a college has been lately erected in the province of New Jersey by his majesty's royal charter, in which a number of youth has been already educated, who are now the instruments of service to the church of God; and which would be far more extensively beneficial were it brought to maturity. That after all the contributions that have been made to the said college, or can be raised in these parts, the fund is far from being sufficient for the erection of proper buildings, supporting the president and tutors, furnishing a library, and defraying other necessary expenses; that the trustees of said college, who are zealous and active to promote it for the public good, have already sent their humble petition to this venerable house for some assistance in carrying on so important a design; and also petitioned this Synod to appoint two of their members, the Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies, to undertake a voyage to Europe in behalf of said college.

Your petitioners, therefore, most heartily concur in the said petition of the trustees to

The same committee, according to appointment, produced a certificate for the

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the Reverend Assembly, and appoint the said Messrs. Tennent and Davies to be their commissioners for that purpose.

And as your petitioners apprehend the design of said petition to be of the utmost importance to the interests of learning and religion in this infant country, and are confident of the zeal of so pious and learned a body as the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to promote such a design; they beg leave to lay before this venerable house, a general representation of the deplorable circumstances of the churches under their Synodical care, leaving it to the commissioners to descend to particulars.

In the colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Carolina, a great number of congregations have been formed upon the Presbyterian plan, which have put themselves under the Synodical care of your petitioners, who conform to the constitution of the Church of Scotland, and have adopted her standards of doctrine, worship, and discipline. There are also large settlements lately planted in various parts, particularly in North and South Carolina, where multitudes are extremely desirous of the ministrations of the gospel; but they are not yet formed into congregations, and regularly organized for want of ministers.

These numerous bodies of people, dispersed so wide through so many colonies, have repeatedly made the most importunate applications to your petitioners, for ministers to be sent among them; and your petitioners have exerted themselves to the utmost for their relief, both by sending their members and candidates to officiate some time among them, and using all practicable measures for the education of pious youth for the ministry.

But alas! notwithstanding these painful endeavours, your petitioners have been utterly incapable to make sufficient provision for so many shepherdless flocks; and those that come hundreds of miles crying to them for some to break the bread of life among them, are often obliged to return in tears, with little or no relief, by reason of the scarcity of ministers.

Though every practicable expedient, which the most urgent necessity could suggest, has been used to prepare labourers for this extensive and growing harvest; yet the number of ministers in this Synod is far from being equal to that of the congregations under their care. Though sundry of them have taken the pastoral charge of two or three congregations for a time, in order to lessen the number of vacancies; and though sundry youth have lately been licensed, ordained, and settled in congregations, that were before destitute; yet there are no less than forty vacant congregations at present under the care of this Synod, besides many more which are incapable at present to support ministers; and the whole colony of North Carolina, where numerous congregations of Presbyterians are forming, and where there is not one Presbyterian minister settled.

The great number of vacancies in the bounds of this Synod, is owing, partly, to the new settlements lately made in various parts of this continent, partly to the death of sundry ministers belonging to this Synod, but principally to the small number of youth educated for the ministry, so vastly disproportionate to the numerous vacancies; and unless some effectual measures can be taken for the education of proper persons for the sacred character, the churches of Christ in these parts must continue in the most destitute circumstances, wandering shepherdless and forlorn through this wilderness, thousands perishing for lack of knowledge, the children of God hungry and unfed, and the rising age growing up in a state little better than that of heathenism, with regard to the public ministrations of the gospel.

The numerous inconveniences of a private, and the many important advantages of a public education are so evident, that we need not inform this venerable assembly of them, who cannot but be sensible from happy experience, of the many extensive benefits of convenient colleges.

The difficulty, (and in some cases impossibility,) of sending youth two, three, four, or five hundred miles or more, to the colleges in New England, is also evident at first sight. Now it is from the college of New Jersey only, that we can expect a remedy of these inconveniences; it is to *that* your petitioners look for the increase of their number; it is on *that* the Presbyterian churches, through the six colonies above mentioned, principally depend for a supply of accomplished ministers; from *that* has been obtained considerable relief already, notwithstanding the many disadvantages that unavoidably attend it in its present infant state; and from *that* may be expected a sufficient supply when brought to maturity.

Your petitioners, therefore, most earnestly pray, that this very reverend Assembly would afford the said college all the countenance and assistance in their power. The young daughter of the Church of Scotland, helpless and exposed in this foreign land,

Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies, which being read was unanimously approved.*

Upon a representation made to the Synod, of the illegal restraints the Protestant dissenters lie under in Virginia, as to their religious liberties, Messrs. James Davenport and John Rogers, were appointed to draw up a recommendation of the affair, and a certificate for Messrs. Samuel Davies and John Todd, members of our body living in that colony, which being done was read and approved.†

Adjourned to Thursday the day after the commencement next September, and then to meet at Newark. Concluded with prayer.

1754.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Newark, September 26th, 1754. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, Simon Horton, Aaron Burr, Timothy Jones, David Bostwick, Caleb Smith, John Brainerd, Daniel Thane, Azariah Horton, Jacob Green, Aaron Richards, Enos Ayres, John Moffet, John Smith, Robert Henry, Alexander Cummins.

Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Samuel Sacket.

New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, James Davenport, James McCrea, Thomas Lewis, Israel Read, Samuel Kennedy.

Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Andrew Hunter, Charles Beatty, Richard Treat, Benjamin Chesnut, Nehemiah Greenman, Henry Martin.

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cries to her tender and powerful mother for relief. The cries of ministers oppressed with labours, and of congregations famishing for want of the sincere milk of the word, implore assistance. And were the poor Indian savages sensible of their own case, they would join in the cry, and beg for more missionaries to be sent to propagate the religion of Jesus among them.

Now as the college of New Jersey appears the most promising expedient to redress these grievances, and to promote religion and learning in these provinces, your petitioners most heartily concur with the trustees, and humbly pray, that an act may be passed by this venerable and honourable Assembly, for a national collection in favour of said college. And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

* A copy of the certificate for Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies.

The Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies, the bearers hereof, undertaking a voyage to Europe, by the appointment of this Synod, in concurrence with the trustees of the college of New Jersey, for the service of said college; the Synod do hereby certify, that the above reverend gentlemen are worthy and well approved members of their body, and do recommend them to the acceptance of the church of God, and the work of their mission, wheresoever Divine Providence may call them, imploring the Divine Presence with them and success to their important undertaking.

Signed by order of the Synod.

† A copy of the representation and certificate.

Whereas, the Protestant dissenters of the Presbyterian denomination in the colony of Virginia lie under some restraints, particularly with regard to the number of their meeting-houses, which is not at all equal to what their circumstances require, though they have taken all legal measures to have a sufficient number registered according to the act of toleration; and whereas, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Davies has been appointed to take a voyage to Great Britain in behalf of the college of New Jersey, and may have an opportunity of using proper means to procure a redress of said grievance, this Synod do humbly and earnestly request the concurrence and assistance of their friends there, for the relief of an helpless and oppressed people in a point of so great consequence, in which their religious liberties are so nearly concerned.

We do therefore cheerfully recommend the said Mr. Davies, who is settled in Virginia, and the Rev. Mr. John Todd, his colleague, as regular and worthy members of their body, zealously and prudently engaged in advancing the Redeemer's kingdom.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Finly, John Blair, John Rogers, Robert Smith.

Elders: Messrs. Caleb Baldwin, Joseph Prudden, Timothy Whitehead, Samuel Lumb, Jonathan Sayres, Jonah Halstead, David Ray, Ephraim Lockart, Thomas Coon, Brice Rickey, Abraham Reeves, David Fulton, Abram Slack, William Buchanan.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Silas Leonard, Jonathan Elmore, Chancey Graham, Timothy Allen, Elihu Spencer, John Maltby, Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Silvanus White, Joseph Park, Naphtali Dagget, Eliphalet Ball, Alexander Craighead, Charles Tennent, James Campbel, John Roan, Samuel Davies, Andrew Stirling, Andrew Bay, Hugh Henry, John Todd, James Finly, John Brown, John Right, Gilbert Tennent, Daniel Lawrence, Charles McKnight, Job Prudden, Samuel Harker, Conradus Worts, Evander Morrison.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on 2 Cor. x. 4, preached by Mr. Finly, the last year's moderator.

Mr. Davenport was chosen moderator, Mr. Beatty clerk.

Mr. Eliab Byram has been removed by death since our last Synod.

Adjourned till half an hour after two of the clock, *post meridiem.* Concluded with prayer.

Eodem Die, half an hour after two of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Pemberton is removed out of the bounds of this Synod since our last.

The reasons given by Messrs. Pierson, Simon Horton, Burr, John Smith, Green, Richards, Caleb Smith, Ayres, Cummins, Moffet, Thane, Prime, Sacket, McCrea, Blair, and Robert Henry, for their absence the last Synod were sustained.

Messrs. Pierson, Burr, Spencer, Bostwick, William and Charles Tennent, Treat, Rogers, Prime, James Brown, Azariah Horton, Finly, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod the year ensuing.

Upon inquiry it was found that the Presbyteries have complied with the order of the Synod, with respect to collections for the college.

The Presbytery books of New York and New Castle were brought to the Synod according to order, the others being forgot, are ordered to be brought the next Synod.

Mr. Finly and Mr. Rogers are appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New York, and Mr. Bostwick and Mr. Jones the Presbytery book of New Castle, and make report thereof before the conclusion of this Synod.

The clerk reported, that he complied with the order of the Synod, and delivered their letter into the Synod of Philadelphia.

A letter from the Synod of Philadelphia was brought in and read, the consideration whereof was deferred till the next *sederunt.*

The clerk certified the Synod, that he had complied with their order, and gave copies of the plan of their first constitution to the persons who requested them.

The committee appointed by our last Synod to go to New York, make report, that they complied with said appointment, and presented the minutes of their proceedings, which being read were approved and are as follows.*

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* The committee of the Synod met according to appointment.

New York, October 24, 1753.

Ministers present: Messrs. William Tennent, Aaron Burr, Charles Beatty, David Boswick, Elihu Spencer, Caleb Smith. Elder: Mr. Samuel Kerr.

The appointments of the last Synod, with respect to supplying Philadelphia, were well fulfilled. And also those for Hanover, except Mr. Brainerd and Mr. Bay, whose reasons for omission were sustained.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Richard Treat, Samuel Davies, and John Rogers.

Mr. Tennent was chosen moderator, Mr. Bostwick clerk.

Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M., and then to meet at the house of Mr. Pemberton. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Several members of the Presbyterian congregation at New York, laid before the committee a remonstrance, containing sundry articles of grievance which they labour under from the past and present management of their ecclesiastical affairs. The committee having distinctly and impartially considered the several articles of complaint, came to the following conclusions, viz:

1. As to the two first articles complaining of the neglect of ministerial visits, and examining into the lives and conversations of the people, it appears by the representation made by Mr. Pemberton, that he has made conscience of his duty in these respects, though of late he has, by reason of the divisions subsisting among his people, desisted from it; we therefore earnestly recommend his persisting in that important part of his ministerial labours, and that he be not discouraged by any disagreeable appearances among them.

2. As to the third article against the session concerning the new version of the psalms, the committee cannot think it regular for the ministers and elders to introduce a new version, without the express consent and approbation of the majority of the congregation; yet since Dr. Watts's version is introduced in this church, and is well adapted for Christian worship, and received by many Presbyterian congregations, both in America and Great Britain, they cannot but judge it best for the well being of the congregation under their present circumstances, that they should be continued.

3. As to the fourth article complaining of the neglect of the Westminster Confession, and not recommending of it in baptism, the committee conceive that the vote of the Synod, as to the latter, is sufficient; and Mr. Pemberton's declaring his high approbation of said Confession, and public teaching the Westminster Catechisms, ought to be satisfying to all.

4. As to praying at the burial of the dead, since it is not practised but at the request of those concerned, and all are left at their liberty to request it or not; the committee think it no just matter of offence, especially as it is frequently practised by the Presbyterian ministers in this country, and the reasons for which the General Assembly, (in the early times of reformation from popery,) prohibited it, are now evidently ceased.

5. As to the singing anthems, &c., though the committee cannot disapprove of them at proper seasons, yet lest it should tend to take off the minds of persons from the important things they have heard in the house of God, and as it seems matter of conscience to some, the committee judge it advisable to forbear the practice on the Lord's day.

6. As to the article complaining of injurious and contemptuous treatment; the committee are much grieved to find that there has been so much of it on both sides, during the unhappy disputes that have subsisted among them, and do earnestly recommend mutual forgiveness, forbearance, and moderation towards one another, as the most likely method to promote peace and unanimity among them.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at eleven of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Messrs. Pemberton and Cumming requested a dismission from their pastoral relation to this church. Mr. Pemberton offered as his reasons, the unhappy divisions subsisting among the people, the appearances of some dissatisfaction with him, and the little prospect of success in his ministerial labours Mr. Cumming offered, that his low state of health would not allow him to go on with his work in the present divided and confused state of the congregation. The committee proposed to the people whether they had any thing to object against the dismission of their ministers. A number of gentlemen in the behalf of others, strongly remonstrated against Mr. Pemberton's dismission, as endangering the peace of the congregation. The committee do judge the continuance of Mr. Pemberton, under the present circumstances of the congregation, to be necessary, and are in hopes that the present confusion in the congregation, and seeming dissatisfaction of some that hinder the success of his labours, will be removed. But at Mr. Pem-

Mr. Sacket has leave to go home, as also hath Mr. Green.

Adjourned till eight of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, at eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Excepting Mr. Sacket.)

The committee appointed to revise the Presbytery books are not prepared to give in their report, and are ordered to be ready against the next *sederunt* if they can.

Mr. Ross, a minister from New England being present, was desired to sit as correspondent.

The letter from the Synod of Philadelphia, respecting our union with them, was taken into consideration, and in compliance with their desire therein expressed, the Synod appoint Messrs. Aaron Burr, David Bostwick, William Tennent, Richard Treat, Samuel Finly, and John Blair, to be a committee to attend the next session of the Synod of Philadelphia, in order to confer with them about said union, in which they are to conclude nothing inconsistent with our former proposals.

Upon the request of some members of the congregation of New York, the Synod do appoint Messrs. Finly and Blair to supply the said congregation the next Sabbath.

Messrs. Simon Horton and Richards are absent without leave.

A letter from Hanover in Virginia, requesting further supplies until their pastor returns, was laid before the Synod, in answer to which the Synod appoints Mr. Greenman to supply them from the fourth Sabbath of November until and including the last Sabbath of February next, and recommend it to the Presbytery of New Castle, to supply said congregation the preceding and remaining time.

And the Synod doth appoint Mr. Clark, a candidate in the Presbytery of New York, to supply Mr. Greenman's congregation from the time of his first absence unto the last Sabbath of January.

Application was also made to the Synod in behalf of Mr. Gilbert Tennent's congregation in Philadelphia, for supplies until their pastor returns from Great Britain; in compliance with which the Synod appoint Mr. Prime to supply the four Sabbaths in November next; Mr. Blair the first four Sabbaths in December; Mr. Treat the last in December and three first in January; Mr. Rogers the last in January and three first in February; Mr. William Tennent the last in February and three first in March; Mr. Davenport the two last in March, and two first in June; Mr. Bewel the four Sabbaths in April; Mr. Burr the

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berton's earnest request, the committee, (being sensible of the many special difficulties he labours under,) allow him a month's time of trial, and if upon a faithful endeavour to heal the divisions and serve the interest of Christ's kingdom among them, he finds all his attempts vain, and still continues his desire of a dismission, they judge it best he should be left at liberty to remove from or abide with them, as he shall think most consistent with his duty.

As to Mr. Cumming, since no reasons have been offered to the committee against his dismission, the committee do judge from what has appeared to them, and for the reasons urged by him, that his pastoral relation to the Presbyterian congregation in New York should be dissolved, and it is hereby dissolved accordingly. It is with pleasure the committee observe that there has been no objection against Mr. Cumming's moral conduct or ministerial labours; they do, therefore, freely recommend him, (if God shall please to restore his health,) to any Christian congregation where Divine Providence may call him, as a man of eminent ministerial gifts and abilities, and one whom they think in many respects fitted for special service in the church of Christ. And the committee do recommend it to the congregation as their indispensable duty, that they make up all the arrears of salary they promised to give to Mr. Cumming. Concluded with prayer.

four Sabbaths in May; Mr. Finly the last two in June and two first in July; Mr. John Smith the three last in July and first in August; Mr. Jones the three last in August and first in September; Mr. Spencer the four last in September. And in case any of the members fail, it is recommended to the several Presbyteries to which they respectively belong, to take proper care that others be sent in their room.

The Synod taking into consideration the destitute condition of Virginia and North Carolina, as it hath been represented unto them, do appoint Messrs. Beatty, Bostwick, Lewis, and Thane, each of them to make a visit to those parts, for the space of three months, and the seasons to be agreed upon by themselves.

In order to supply Mr. Beatty's congregation, the Synod appoints Mr. Moffet to supply the month of November, (he concluding to set off in the beginning of said month,) and Mr. Azariah Horton the four first Sabbaths of December; that Mr. Allen supply Mr. Lewis's congregation the month of January, and Mr. McCrea the month of February.

Adjourned till half an hour after two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Eodem Die, half an hour after two o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Together with Mr. Allen, whose absence hitherto is excused.

The Presbytery book of New York being revised was approved.

The supplying Mr. Thane's congregation during his journey to Virginia, &c. is recommended to the Presbytery of New York, as they shall judge needful.

With respect unto Mr. Bostwick's congregation, the Synod appoint Mr. Cumming to supply it three Sabbaths during his absence, and Mr. Simon Horton three Sabbaths, Mr. Dagget two Sabbaths, and Mr. Park two Sabbaths.

The Synod also appoint the Presbytery of Suffolk to supply Mr. Bewel's congregation during the time he supplies in Philadelphia.

The Synod do agree, that hereafter there shall be a committee of overtures appointed at the beginning of the Synod, and that all new business shall first be laid before said committee, in order by them to be laid before the Synod.

Pursuant to the order of the last Synod for a collection by the several ministers of their body, the following members brought their collections, viz. Messrs. Burr, Jones, Bostwick, Thane, Azariah Horton, Davenport, William Tennent, Lewis, Read, Kennedy, Hunter, Beatty, Treat, Robert Henry, Greenman, Finly, Blair, Rogers, and Robert Smith, all which amounted to nine pounds, sixteen shillings, and nine pence, provincial currency, and was committed into the hands of Mr. Treat, as their treasurer.

Adjourned to the first of October, to meet at Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1755.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Philadelphia, October 1*st*, 1755. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Aaron Burr, Azariah Horton, Elihu Spencer, Jacob Green, John Brainerd.

Elders: Samuel Lum, Joseph Ogden, Joseph Tuttle.

Ministers absent: Messrs. John Pierson, Timothy Jones, Simon Horton,

Timothy Allen, David Bostwick, Caleb Smith, Aaron Richards, Alexander Cummins, Chancey Graham, Jonathan Elmore, Enos Ayers, John Moffat, John Smith, Daniel Thane, John Maltby, Hugh Knox.

Ministers of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. James McCrea, James Davenport, Charles McKnight, Thomas Lewis, Israel Read, Samuel Harker, Samuel Kennedy.

Elders: John Adams, Gilbert Hendrickson, Robert Moore, George Warner, Thomas Coone.

Ministers absent: Messrs. William Tennent, Job Prudden, Conradus Worts.

Suffolk Presbytery: All absent.

Abington Presbytery, ministers: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Benjamin Chesnut, Charles Beatty.

Elders: Thomas Bourn, William Adams, Thomas Francis, Isaac Mills, John Wigton.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Nehemiah Greenman, Henry Marten.

New Castle Presbytery, ministers: Messrs. Evander Morrison, James Campbell, Samuel Finley, Samuel Davies, John Roan, Andrew Bay, John Rodgers, James Finley, John Hogge, John Blair, Robert Smith.

Elders: John Kirkpatrick, Philip Davies, William Bell, John Withrow, David Stewart, Benjamin Blyth, Charles Vance, Thomas Sharp, William McCrea.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Charles Tennent, Alexander Craighead, Andrew Sterling, Hugh Henry, Robert Henry, John Brown, John Wright, John Todd.

The Synod was opened by a sermon from 2 Cor. iv. 1, preached by Mr. Davenport, the last year's moderator.

Mr. Burr is chosen moderator for the ensuing year, Mr. Davies clerk.

Mr. Edwards is desired to sit with this Synod as correspondent.

The reasons of the absence from last Synod, of the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Campbell, Roan, Davies, Bay, Todd, James Finley, Gilbert Tennent, John Wright, Lawrence, McKnight, Harker, and Morrison, are sustained.

The reasons of absence from this Synod, of Messrs. Pierson, William Tennent, Greenman, Todd, Bostwick, Jones, Smith, Richards, and Simon Horton, being related by some members present, are sustained.

Messrs. Pierson, Spencer, Bostwick, Gilbert, William and Charles Tennent, Treat, Davenport, Rogers, Prime, Brown, Azariah Horton, Samuel Finly, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

The Synod finding there is but one Presbytery book present, it is ordered that all the books be brought by each Presbytery at the meeting of the next Synod.

The committee appointed to attend upon the Synod of Philadelphia, to confer with them upon the head of the union, do make report, that they complied with said appointment, and after conference had with a committee of that Synod upon that head, and after hearing several things offered in relation thereto, desired that Synod to send their proposals in writing to this Synod to be considered at their next meeting.

Mr. Simon Horton's reason for absence from the last Synod without leave, is sustained.

Mr. Greenman's appointment to supply Hanover was complied with; as also the supplies appointed for Philadelphia, till Mr. Tennent's return from Great Britain.

Messrs. Beatty and Thane have fulfilled their appointments to go to Virginia and Carolina; and Mr. Lewis's reasons for non-compliance, are sustained.

Mr. Azariah Horton supplies Mr. Beatty's congregation in his absence, according to appointment.

As Mr. Moffat did not comply with the appointment of Synod in his supplies, the Synod order the Presbytery of New York to inquire into the reasons of his omission.

Messrs. Blair, Azariah Horton, Rogers, Davenport, Morrison, Beatty, and Davies, are appointed a committee of overtures, and for any other business the Synod shall recommend unto them, and that they meet to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock and Mr. Davies moderator.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

2d day. Nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Marten, Read, Charles Tennent, and Worts, are come, and the reasons of their absence yesterday are sustained.

A reference was brought into the Synod by the Presbytery of New York, concerning the removal of Mr. Bostwick from Jamaica, by a call from the Presbyterian congregation of New York, and the settling the order and discipline of said church, which, after reading several papers, and hearing what was offered in relation thereto, was deferred till the next *sederunt*, for further consideration.

Application being made to the Synod from the trustees of New Jersey college, for a general collection in all their congregations for the use of said college, the Synod do recommend it to their several Presbyteries, to take such measures as they judge proper to make collections in the congregations within their respective bounds, for the use of the college of New Jersey betwixt this and the next Synod, and send such collections by some proper hand to the Synod.

Adjourned till four of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Four of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of New York reassumed, but for want of time to go through with it, it is referred to the next *sederunt*.

Upon sundry petitions from various parts of North Carolina, setting forth their distressed circumstances for want of a preached gospel among them, and requesting help from this Synod, Messrs. Brainerd and Spencer are appointed to take a journey thither before winter, and supply the vacant congregations there, and in parts adjacent, for six months, or as long as they shall think necessary; and the appointment of supplies for Mr. Spencer's congregation is referred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at half an hour after eight of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

3d day. Half an hour after eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Except the Rev. Messrs. Burr, Brainerd, McKnight, and Lawrence, who were permitted to go away.

The moderator being gone, Mr. Treat was desired to take his place at this season.

A petition was brought into the Synod setting forth the necessity of erecting a new Presbytery in Virginia, the Synod therefore appoint the Rev. Samuel Davies, John Todd, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, John Wright, and John Brown, to be a Presbytery, under the name of the Presbytery

of Hanover, and that their first meeting shall be in Hanover, on the first Wednesday of December next, and that Mr. Davies open said meeting by a sermon; and that any of their members settling to the southward and westward of Mr. Hogge's congregation, shall have liberty to join said Presbytery of Hanover.

The affair from New York reassumed, and as there was not time to finish it, it is referred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair from New York reassumed, and the Synod having fully heard and discussed said affair, do appoint Messrs. Spencer, Samuel Finley, and the clerk, to draw up the judgment of the Synod thereupon, against eight of the clock this evening.

The Synod appoint Mr. Clark to take a journey into Virginia and North Carolina, to supply the vacancies there for six months, betwixt this and next Synod, particularly at Rocky River and Sugar Creek, at the Hawfields, Enno, Ilico, and Dan Rivers.

A paper was presented to the Synod containing an account of sundry generous and valuable donations from divers friends in England, for the education of pious, indigent youth, for the gospel ministry, which the Synod, in order to express their gratitude for, as well as for the security of the same for the purposes aforesaid, order to be recorded in their minutes, and are as follows.

To the Reverend Synod of New York,

The annual interest of the following donations was appropriated by the donors, for the education of such youth for the ministry of the gospel, in the College of New Jersey, as are unable to defray the expenses of their education, who appear, upon proper examination, to be of promising genius, Calvinistic principles, and in the judgment of charity, experimentally acquainted with a work of saving grace, and to have a distinguished zeal for the glory of God, and salvation of men.

London.	£	s.	d.
Mr. Samuel Savage,	10	10	0
Mrs. Rachel Spellerberg,	50	0	0
Mr. William Wetmore	5	5	0
Robert Cruttenden, Esquire,	5	5	0
Rev. Mr. Ziegenhagen,	4	4	0
Rev. Samuel Pike,	3	3	0
Rev. George Turnbull,	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Williams, of Kidderminster,	5	5	0
Mr. Austin, of ditto	3	12	0
Mr. Joseph Field,	1	1	0
Mr. Cruttenden's Friend,	5	5	0
Mr. Henry Carrington,	3	3	0
Mr. Carrington Bowles,	1	1	0
Mr. Dennis Debert,	5	5	0
Mr. James Cox,	5	5	0
Mr. William Fuller,	5	5	0
Daniel Booth, Esquire,	5	5	0
Rev. Thomas Gibbons, and some of his friends,	12	12	0
Rev. Thomas Hall, and some of his friends,	15	15	0
Mr. Joseph Hartwell,	2	2	0

London.	£	s.	d.
Mr. John Bowles,	5	5	0
Mr. Furnell,	2	2	0
Mr. Skinner,	1	1	0
Mr. Jonathan Eade,	3	3	0
Mr. Shirly Wolmer,	1	1	0
Mr. James English,	10	10	0
The Independent Congregation in Ipswich,	23	9	0
Rev. Mr. Frost's Congregation in Yarmouth,	27	5	6
Rev. Mr. Davidson's Congregation in Braintre,	46	0	0
Rev. Mr. Fosket in Bristol,*	5	5	0
Mr. Lunel in Dublln,	1	1	0
Rev. Mr. Ogilvie in New Castle,	20	10	6
Sum total,	£296	17	0

The above sum of two hundred and ninety-six pounds, seventeen shillings, sterling, being given in trust to us, the subscribers, with design that the annual interest thereof for ever be applied for the use aforesaid: We do, by virtue of said trust, put the said sum into the hands of the trustees of the College of New Jersey, in trust, to be applied to the education of such youth, of the character above mentioned, as shall be examined and approved of by the Synod of New York, (or by what name soever that body of men may be hereafter called,) and by them recommended to the trustees of said college, and to be divided among such youth in such proportion as said Synod shall think fit.

Witness our hands,

GILBERT TENNENT, SAMUEL DAVIES.

London, October 25*th*, 1754.

November 1*st*, 1754. Received by the Rev. Mr. Pye, of Sheffield, the additional sum of ten pounds, seven shillings, and six pence, sterling, to be applied as above directed.

Total three hundred and seven pounds, four shillings, and six pence, sterling.

GILBERT TENNENT, SAMUEL DAVIES.

For the education of youth of the character aforesaid.

Samuel Ruggles, Esquire, of Bocking, fifty pounds.

The above sum of fifty pounds sterling, being given in trust to us, the subscribers, with design that the principal be applied as soon as occasion requireth, for the education of youth of the characters before described: We do, by virtue of said trust, put the said sum into the hands of said trustees, for the use, and under the direction of the Synod of New York, as aforesaid.

Witness our hands, *London, October* 25, 1754.

GILBERT TENNENT, SAMUEL DAVIES.

The Synod appoint that such youth as may be candidates for this benefaction, be examined by the Synod at their annual meeting.

Mr. Gilbert Tennent reported to the Synod that he has lately received a bill for two hundred pounds sterling, generously given for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians, and to be under the direction of this Synod.

* The Rev. Mr. Fosket, the donor, expressly ordered, that his donation be applied to the education of poor pious youth, of Calvinistic principles, of every denomination of Protestants.

The Synod do appoint the Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Samuel Finly, Green, Spencer, and Davies, to draw up a plan for the application of the money contributed in Great Britain for the use of the Indians, and lay the same before the Synod, before the end of their present session. The same committee appointed to draw up certificates for those ministers who are appointed to go to the southward.

The Synod appoint the Presbytery of New York to draw up a certificate for Mr. Clark, being a candidate belonging unto them.

The committee appointed to draw up the judgment of the Synod on the affair of New York, presented what they had written, which, with some amendments, was approved, and is as follows, viz.

The Synod having heard and maturely considered the sundry complaints and requests of both parties from the Presbyterian congregation in New York, come to the following conclusions thereon:

That though the Synod upon former inquiry did find that the trustees have faithfully discharged their trust, and are still of the same judgment, yet as there has been a mutual agreement between the trustees and those dissatisfied with that constitution, that as soon as the debts of the church are paid, they should no longer be elected in their present form; the Synod approve of said agreement, and judge, that if the congregation think it expedient to have a committee for the management of their temporal concerns, the said committee shall be chosen after that time, by the ministers, elders, and deacons, with the consent of the congregation, and accountable to them for their conduct. And in order the more speedily to discharge the said debts, the Synod recommend it to the congregation to pay punctually, and as soon as possible, the pew rents that may be due. And that the affairs of the congregation may be carried on with greater regularity, the Synod also recommend it to them to choose a greater number of elders and deacons as soon as they conveniently can.

That as there is a number of the congregation much dissatisfied with the constant use of Dr. Watts's version of the Psalms, and earnestly desirous that the Scotch version should be used, and as mutual forbearance and condescension in such cases, is a duty which Christians owe to one another, and is necessary to preserve the peace of society, the Synod determine that the Scotch version be used equally with the other in the stated public worship on the Lord's days.

That previously to the administration of baptism, the minister shall inquire into the parents' knowledge of the great and fundamental doctrines of the gospel, and the regularity of their life; and being satisfied so as to admit them, shall in public point out the special duties of the parents, and particularly, that they teach their children the doctrines and precepts of Christianity, contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and comprised in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: which therefore he shall recommend unto them.

That whereas complaint has been made of a number assuming the name of the Scotch Presbyterian Society, it shall be deemed irregular and censurable for any part of the congregation to form a party, and consider themselves as a society distinct from the rest of the congregation.

That as to the removal of Mr. Bostwick, the congregation of Jamaica not being prepared to make a representation on this head, the Synod appoints the following members, viz. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Prime, William Tennent, Burr, Treat, Davenport, John Smith of Rye, McCrea, Beatty, Hunter, Allen, Read, Buel, Sacket, Brown, Lewis, and Rodgers, to be their committee, to meet at Jamaica, on the 29th of this instant October, to determine that affair, and any other matters relative to it, that may come before them.

Adjourned till nine of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

4th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Except Messrs. Lewis, Campbell, and Hogge, who have obtained leave to go home.

The Synod recommend it to all the members, excepting such who live so near the place of meeting that they can go to their congregations after twelve of the clock on Saturday, and return again by ten of the clock on Monday, that they do not make any appointments to preach on the Lord's day following the Synod, or so pre-engage themselves as to be obliged to return before the conclusion of the Synod, in any time coming.

A letter from the Synod of Philadelphia, concerning an union with this Synod, was read, [See page 218,] and after much debate and consultation had upon it, it was referred to a committee to draw up an answer against next Monday morning, at ten of the clock, and that those members that remain in town this afternoon be a committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till Monday morning, at ten of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

October 6, ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

In order to supply the congregations of those ministers, who are to go to the southward, the Synod appoint the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Abington to supply within the bounds of New York Presbytery each four Sabbaths. And that the Presbytery of Suffolk supply either New York or Jamaica, as need shall be, each member two Sabbaths.

As the present critical and alarming situation of the country, requires particular applications to heaven, the Synod recommend it to all the Presbyteries to appoint a day, when they think proper, to be religiously observed, either in thanksgiving or humiliation, as the posture of affairs may then require.

Mr. Charles Tennent is appointed to preach in Philadelphia the first Sabbath in November, in the room of Mr. Gilbert Tennent, who is to be from home on the appointment to Jamaica.

The committee appointed to draw up an answer to the minute of Philadelphia Synod, make report, that they have not been able yet to complete it, but expect to be ready against the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee brought in their answer to the Synod of Philadelphia, which was carefully examined, but there not being time to finish it, the further consideration of it is referred till to-morrow.

The following ministers, viz: Messrs. Burr, Charles Tennent, Rogers, Robert Smith, Davies, Azariah Horton, Davenport, Hunter, McKnight, and Kennedy, brought collections into the Synod, in all amounting to five pounds four shillings provincial, and it is committed to Mr. Treat their treasurer.

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

7th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Roan, Smith, and James Finly, and Charles Vance, who had leave to go away.)

The answer to the Synod of Philadelphia was again taken under consideration, together with a plan of proposals for an union, and Messrs. Samuel Finly and Blair are appointed to finish the plan and bring it in at the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Eodem Die, three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Finly and Blair brought in their answer to the Synod of Philadelphia, and a plan of union, which was read and approved, and is as follows:

[This plan of union being already inserted, pages 221, 222, it is not necessary to repeat it here.]

The Synod appoint their clerk to transcribe the above answer and plan, and send it in to the Synod of Philadelphia at their next meeting.

The committee appointed to draw up a plan for the application of the money generously given for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians, report that the donor of the before-mentioned money, directs it to be put into the hands of the trustees of the college of New Jersey and their successors in trust, for the uses and purposes hereafter mentioned, viz: "Either towards the support of a pious and well qualified missionary in preaching the gospel among the Indians in North America, or the supporting of a pious and well qualified schoolmaster in teaching the Indians the English language, and the principles of natural and revealed religion; or for maintaining a pious and well qualified Indian youth at the college of New Jersey, while prosecuting his studies there, in order to his instructing his countrymen in the English language and the Christian religion, or preaching the gospel to them; or for maintaining a pious and well qualified youth of English or Scotch extract, at that college, during his preparatory studies for teaching or preaching the gospel among the Indians, in case an Indian youth of suitable qualifications, cannot at some particular time be obtained. With this express limitation, namely, that the Synod of New York, (or by whatever name that body shall, in time coming, be called,) shall direct and determine, to which of the uses before mentioned, the yearly interest of the aforesaid principal sum, shall be from time to time applied; and which of the candidates for that particular use shall be preferred; and how the overplus above what may reasonably answer the particular use at any time pitched on, (if any such overplus be,) shall be employed in providing Bibles or other good books, conducive to promote the general design."

The Synod agree to follow the directions of the generous donor, and to apply the donation for the purpose intended as soon as possible.

It being proposed to form a fund for the use of ministers' widows and orphans, the Synod appoint Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, and Burr, to procure plans against the next Synod; and they recommend it to their members to use proper means in the interim, to make ministers and people, sensible of its necessity and importance; and that they come prepared to contribute to it at the next meeting.

Adjourned to the day after the next commencement at Newark. Concluded with prayer.

1756.

The Synod met according to adjournment.

Newark, September 30, 1756. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers of Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball.

Ministers of New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, Aaron Burr, Simon Horton, Azariah Horton, John Brainerd, Timothy Allen, John Smith, Jacob Green, David Bostwick, Elihu Spencer, Timothy Jones, Daniel Thane, Aaron Richards, Nathaniel Whitaker.

Ministers of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, James Davenport, James McCrea, Charles McKnight, Thomas Lewis, Samuel Kennedy, Benjamin Hait.

Ministers of Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, Charles Beatty, Daniel Lawrence, Henry Marten.

Ministers of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Finly, John Blair, John Rodgers.

Ministers of Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. John Todd, John Wright.

Elders: Gideon Hedges, Elnathan Cory, Joseph Ogden, Joseph Prudden, Timothy Whitehead, Isaac Praul, Robert Cummins, Gilbert Hendrickson, Samuel Brown, Abraham Larieu, Philip Wynkoop, Robert Givings, Ezra Carey.

Ministers absent, of Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Silvanus White, Benjamin Talmage, Abner Reeves.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Enos Ayres, Chancy Graham, John Moffett, Jonathan Elmore, Hugh Knox, John Maltby, Caleb Smith, Alexander Cummins.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Israel Read, Samuel Harker, Job Prudden, Conradus Worts.

Of Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Benjamin Chesnutt, Nehemiah Greenman.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs Charles Tennent, James Campbell, John Roan, Andrew Bay, John Hogg, Robert Smith, Andrew Sterling, James Finley, Evander Morrison, Moses Tuttle, Hugh Henry, John Harris.

Of Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Davies, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, John Brown.

The Synod was opened by a sermon preached by Mr. Burr, the last year's moderator, on Isaiah xxi. 11, 12.

Mr. William Tennent was chosen moderator for the year ensuing, Mr. Treat clerk.

Mr. Light, an approved minister of the Dutch Church, being present, is desired to sit with this Synod as correspondent.

Adjourned to half an hour after two of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Half an hour after two of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The reasons offered for the absence of Messrs. John Todd, John Smith, Hugh Knox, Daniel Thane, and John Maltby, the last Synod, are sustained.

Messrs. John Pierson, Elihu Spencer, David Bostwick, Gilbert Tennent, Charles Tennent, Richard Treat, James Davenport, John Rodgers, Aaron Burr, Ebenezer Prime, James Brown, Azariah Horton, Samuel Finley, and the moderator, are appointed to be a commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

The Presbytery books of New York, Abington, and New Brunswick, are brought according to appointment. The other Presbytery books are ordered to be brought next Synod.

Mr. Bewel and Mr. Rogers are appointed to revise Abington Presbytery book: Mr. Blair and Mr. Beatty to revise New Brunswick Presbytery book; and Mr. Tennent and Mr Finly the Presbytery book of New York.

Messrs. Prime, Azariah Horton, Davenport, Jones, Brainerd, Allen, John Smith, and the moderator, are appointed to be a committee of overtures and any other business the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Upon inquiry it was found that none of the Presbyteries did fully comply with the order of the last Synod respecting collections for the college; yet, inasmuch as some particular members have done it, the Synod order them to

pay the same into the hands of Mr. Brainerd, and that he give an account thereof to the Synod, before the conclusion of this meeting.

And the Synod do recommend it to their members that have not as yet complied with the said order, to do all they reasonably can before their next meeting.

The difficulties and dangers of the times render it in a great degree impracticable for Messrs. Spencer and Brainerd to answer the end of their appointment to the southward, and for that reason said appointments were not fulfilled.

There were the like reasons for Mr. Clark's not fulfilling his appointment to the southren provinces.

There having been reposed a certain sum of money in the hands of the trustees of New Jersey College, for the uses expressed in the minutes of last year, the Synod doth appoint Mr. Allen to attend upon the President, and receive proper receipts and certificates for said money, to be brought into the Synod at their next meeting.

And whereas the Synod appointed such scholars as expect any part of the fund designed for the education of pious youth, to be examined by the Synod at their annual meeting, the Synod finding they are unable, through a multiplicity of business, and by reason of the absence of some that design to offer themselves, to have their examination before their own body at this meeting, do appoint Messrs. Burr, William Tennent, Brainerd, Davenport, Treat, McKnight, Cummins, and Hait, to be a committee to meet at Princeton, the twenty-third day of November next, to examine such candidates as offer, and determine what proportion of said money each shall have the ensuing year.

The committee appointed to meet at Jamaica on the affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal, laid the minutes of their proceedings before the Synod, which were approved, and are as follows:

"At a meeting of the committee of the Synod of New York, at Jamaica, October 29, 1755, according to appointment. Present, Messrs. President Burr, Samuel Sacket, Samuel Bewel, Israel Read, James Brown, Timothy Allen.

"*Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"The committee was opened by a sermon preached by Mr. Bewel, from Job xiv. 8.

"Mr. Burr chosen moderator, Mr. Allen clerk.

"The affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal came under consideration. The committee having heard all the several parties concerned in that affair, had to offer on that head, after much deliberation adjourned the further consideration of it till to-morrow, half an hour past eight in the morning, to which time the committee is adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

"30*th day, the Committee met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt*

"The committee proceeded to a long deliberation on the affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal.

"*Eodem Die, seven of the clock, P. M.*

"Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, James McCrea, Charles Beatty, Andrew Hunter, and John Rogers, came, being prevented attending the preceding *sederunts* by the tempestuousness of the weather.

"The affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal from Jamaica to New York reconsid-

ered; and after much consultation, concluded to defer the further consideration of it till to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock; to which time the committee is adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

"31*st day, the Committee met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt.*

"The affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal, &c. reassumed.

"The committee not having sufficient light to come to a full determination of that affair at this time, conclude that it be referred to the standing commission of the Synod of New York, to be convened by the moderator, at Princeton, on the second Wednesday of April next, at eleven of the clock, A. M.; and that Mr. Bostwick be appointed to supply at New York, the whole months of December and January, and the two first Sabbaths of February next; and that the Presbytery of New York provide a constant supply for Jamaica, during Mr. Bostwick's absence. And this committee recommends it to the people of Jamaica, to make the necessary winter provisions for Mr. Bostwick's family as usual. Concluded with prayer."

The commission of the Synod made report to the Synod, that they met on the affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal, referred unto them by the committee. The minutes of their proceedings are as follows:

"The commission of the Synod of New York regularly called, met at

"*Princetown, April* 14, 1756.

"Present: Messrs. the moderator, Aaron Burr, John Pierson, William Tennent, Richard Treat, James Davenport, John Rogers, Azariah Horton.

"Absent: Messrs. Elihu Spencer, David Bostwick, Gilbert Tennent, Charles Tennent, Ebenezer Prime, James Brown, Samuel Finly.

"Correspondents: Messrs. Timothy Jones, Timothy Allen, Charles McKnight, John Brainerd, Charles Beatty, Daniel Lawrence, Caleb Smith.

"*Post preces sederunt.*

"Mr. Caleb Smith was chosen clerk.

"The commission was opened by a sermon preached by the moderator from John xviii. 36.

"The Rev. Mr. Johannes Light, a minister of the Reformed Dutch Church, was desired to sit as correspondent.

"The affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal from Jamaica to New York, was brought before the commission by a letter from the elders and deacons of the Presbyterian congregation in New York, representing their continued unanimity for Mr. Bostwick, and that the reasons for his removal to them are very much strengthened and increased by his labours among them the last winter, which appeared more fully by their commissioners, who were sent for that purpose. The moderator also reported to the commission, that he had accidentally left at home a letter he had received from Mr. Bostwick, representing his low state of health, and fear that he could not attend the commission, and in case he did not, that he would acquiesce in their judgment about his removal to New York.

"The commission having read the papers containing a representation of the state of the Presbyterian congregation at Jamaica, and their reasons against Mr. Bostwick's removal; after much deliberate consideration of the important affair, and earnest prayer to God for direction in it, adjourned the further consideration of it till to-morrow morning, at eight of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

"*15th day, at eight of the clock, A. M., the commission met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

"The Rev. Mr. David Cowell, was desired to sit as correspondent.

"The affair of Mr. Bostwick's removal reassumed. The commission having weighed the reasons for and against it with deep concern and great deliberation, considering the peculiar circumstances and great importance of New York congregation, how long they have been destitute; how many fruitless attempts have been made to resettle the gospel among them; the little hopes of their being so well united in any other person; and especially the desirable prospect that appears of Mr. Bostwick's great usefulness in that place; cannot but judge it to be his duty to remove; and his pastoral relation to the church and congregation at Jamaica is dissolved for that purpose. But as the commission have a tender concern for the congregation of Jamaica, a great sense of their importance, and how their case calls for special regard, they desire the moderator, in his journey to Boston, to look out for a candidate to be sent among them, and appoint the said moderator to supply them one Sabbath on his return; and Messrs. Simon Horton, Ebenezer Prime, and Benjamin Talmage, are appointed to supply at Jamaica the three Sabbaths immediately succeeding Mr. Bostwick's departure, of which Mr. Bostwick is appointed to give them notice. And the Pesbyteries of New York and Suffolk are ordered to take special care that they be constantly supplied till next Synod. The commission also considering, that the congregation of Jamaica will necessarily be put to charge in obtaining a resettlement of the gospel ministry, do earnestly recommend it to the Presbyterian church in New York, to exercise a Christian generosity toward the people of Jamaica, that they may be better enabled to settle another minister.

"Mr. Beatty representing to the commission, that a motion had been lately made to him by the government of Pennsylvania, to go out as chaplain with their forces upon the frontiers, desired that some provision might be made for the supply of his pulpit. The commission accordingly appointed Abington Presbytery to supply four Sabbaths; the Presbytery of New York three Sabbaths; the Presbytery of New Brunswick four Sabbaths; and the Presbytery of New Castle five Sabbaths. Concluded with prayer."

The appointment of last Synod, for a day to be religiously observed as a day of fasting or thanksgiving, was complied with.

A letter from the Synod of Philadelphia, in answer to one sent them from this Synod the last year, was read; the further consideration of it was deferred to the next *sederunt.* [See page 222.]

Upon application made to this Synod, they agreed to allow the interest of the money under their direction for the progagation of the gospel among the Indians, unto Mr. Brainerd, a missionary to the Indians, in order to assist him in labouring among them for this year.

The order of the last Synod respecting a fund for ministers' widows and orphans, came under consideration, but seeing no plans for that purpose have yet been obtained, the Synod do defer any further proceedings in that affair till the next meeting.

Ordered, That the committee of overtures meet to-morrow morning at eight of the clock.

Adjourned to nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

October 1st, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The New York Presbytery book was revised and approved.

The consideration of the letter from the Synod of Philadelphia deferred till the next *sederunt.*

Mr. Caleb Smith is come to the Synod, whose absence yesterday was occasioned by sickness.

A paper was brought into the Synod from several persons belonging to the Presbyterian congregation of New York, setting forth some grievances they suppose themselves to labour under, &c. The Synod having heard said paper read, and what their commissioner offered to them, do refer it to Messrs. John Blair, Samuel Finly, Timothy Allen, and Caleb Smith, to draw up the judgment of the Synod thereupon, and bring it in as soon as they can.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery book of Abington was revised and approved.

An affair was brought into the Synod by way of reference from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, in relation to Mr. McCrea's accepting the call from the congregation of Bedminster and parts adjacent, with whom he has laboured for several years past, but last fall, liberated from them by his Presbytery, by reason of some dissatisfactions in the congregation: the Synod, after having read divers papers and heard what all concerned had to offer on the head, came to the following conclusion, that is to say, that inasmuch as by far the greatest part of the congregation are united in their desires for his settlement with them, and it is likely to be for the hurt of the congregation, as well as of Mr. McCrea and his family, if he should remove from them; the Synod judge that Mr. McCrea have liberty to accept of the call of said people if he see fit. But in case Mr. McCrea shall accept the call of said people, the Synod see no reason for the minor part of said congregation to be set off from the congregation and have supplies for themselves, or be refunded any part of the money they have expended in building their meeting-house, as they in their paper proposed to the Synod.

Several supplications for supplies from vacancies in North and South Carolina, and Bladensburg in Maryland, were read, the consideration of which was referred to the next *sederunt.*

The Synod agree that an address be prepared and presented to Lord Lowden, commander in chief of all his majesty's forces in North America, and they do appoint Messrs. Aaron Burr, Elihu Spencer, David Bostwick, and Caleb Smith, or some one of them, to prepare and present it in the name of this Synod on the first proper opportunity.

The Synod agreed to desire Mr. Burr to favour them with a copy of his sermon preached before them at the opening of their session, in order to have it printed, they apprehending the publication of said sermon may be of good service at this season.

The committee appointed to draw up the judgment of the Synod on the affair of New York, brought in the same, which after much consideration and some amendments, was unanimously approved and is as follows:

A paper was presented to the Synod signed by several members of the Presbyterian congregation of New York, which the Synod observe contains insulting and even threatening expressions, and insinuations of partiality and dishonesty, together with several demands proposed in a very disrespectful manner, and with an air of contempt. As this conduct in professors of religion towards a judicature of Jesus Christ is insufferably arrogant, presumptuous, and of evil tendency, and contrary to the commands of our Lord, who has ordered us to suffer no man to despise us acting properly in our own office, we judge it highly censurable. And though we might justly refuse to take any further notice of what is offered in said paper, yet as we would condescend to the weakness, and as far as can consist with duty, bear with the imperfections of those who are under our care, for the sake of their edification, we therefore inform them

that by adopting the Westminster Confession, we only intend receiving it as a test of orthodoxy in this church; and it is the order of this Synod, that all who are licensed to preach the gospel, or become members of any Presbytery in our bounds, shall receive the same as the confession of their faith, according to our constituting act, which we see no reason to repeal.

That as to the singing of Dr. Watts's version of the Psalms, though the conduct of the congregation in their adhering to them, contrary to Synodical appointment, without waiting for an opportunity to obtain a repeal of said appointment, was not regular; yet as the said Psalms are orthodox, and no particular version is of Divine authority, and that the using them is earnestly desired by a great majority of said congregation, contrary to the view we had of the case the last year, the Synod, for the sake of their peace, do permit the use of said version unto them: and determine that this judgment shall be finally decisive as to this affair.

That they, who obstinately refuse to pay their pew rents, are to be esteemed as not walking orderly, and do in fact forfeit their pews, nor is it an injury done them by the congregation, if they are deprived of them.

As to reading in the desk, the Synod consider it as a mere indifferency in itself; and as the congregation has long used this practice, which is not contrary to any Divine rule, or constitution of this church, there appears no necessity of altering it by authority.

The other particulars proposed in said paper, being already determined by the Synod in former sessions, we adhere to those determinations.

Adjourned to eight of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

2d day, at eight of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Abington Presbytery book was revised, and is approved.

The letter from the Philadelphia Synod came under consideration, with respect to which the Synod came to the following agreement, viz.

That notwithstanding the Synod of Philadelphia have not given a satisfactory answer to the particulars contained in our letter, which were judged necessary to be settled previous to an union; the Synod, from an earnest desire of an hearty and lasting union, do comply with their proposal of a mutual conference, and accordingly appoint Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Aaron Burr, James Davenport, Richard Treat, Samuel Finly, John Blair, Caleb Smith, Ebenezer Prime, James Brown, to be a committee to meet with the commission of the Synod of Philadelphia, at Trenton, the second Wednesday in May next, to fix upon a proper plan of union, to be laid before each Synod at their next meeting.

Application was made to the Synod by Mr. Beatty, desiring to know their mind with respect to his going chaplain to the forces that may be raised in the province of Pennsylvania, if he shall, by the government, be called to that service. The Synod do judge it to be his duty, and in that case do appoint their several Presbyteries to provide supplies for Mr. Beatty's congregation, three Sabbaths in four he shall be absent from them; particularly the Presbytery of Abington, three Sabbaths; the Presbytery of New Brunswick, three Sabbaths; the Presbytery of New York, three Sabbaths; and the Presbytery of New Castle, three Sabbaths; and in case these shall not suffice, the said Presbyteries shall provide further supplies in like proportion until his return.

The Synod considering what asssitance can be afforded by way of supply to the several vacancies to the southward that have applied to them, do appoint Mr. Duffield and Mr. Ramsey to go this fall as soon as they can; and likewise Mr. Brainerd and Mr. Rodgers before winter; Mr. Hait and Mr. Whitaker in the spring, and to spend each four months in their journey, and supply all those destitute congregations as much as they can.

Ordered, That certificates be given to Mr. Brainerd and Mr. Rogers by the Synod.

Ordered, That Mr. Samuel Finly do sign proper certificates for Messrs. Whitaker, Hait, Duffield, and Ramsey, in the name of the Synod.

The Synod does appoint Mr. Blair to supply Mr. Ramsey's pulpit three Sabbaths in his absence.

Mr. Brainerd reported that he had received of collections for New Jersey College:

Of Mr. Rogers, £8 11*s.* 6*d.*; Mr. Lawrence, £5; Mr. Hunter, £4 19*s.* 6*d.* £18 11*s.* Provincial currency.

Which Mr. Brainerd is ordered to pay to the college treasurer.

The Synod, under a sense of the present distressed and calamitous state of the country, do agree that they will recommend to all their congregations to unite in observing the last Thursday of October instant, as a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

The Synod propose further to recommend to their congregations to spend part of the last Thursday of every month in extraordinary prayer, while the present mournful state of our public affairs continues.

And they do further most earnestly recommend it to all their members, present and absent, to exert themselves in an extraordinary manner, in their several spheres of influence, for a general and thorough reformation of those crying abominations which seem most evidently to have kindled the anger of heaven against this land.

And that they would, in their public performances, frequently explain, and warmly press on their hearers the necessity of such a reformation in this day.

The Synod taking into serious consideration the dangerous situation of the public at this juncture, by means of a potent, prevailing, and cruel enemy; the divided state of these colonies; the abounding of profanity, luxury, infidelity, error, and ignorance; the evident suspension of spiritual influences from the Church, which is followed with an evident insensibility under the judgments as well as ordinances of God; together with other awful aspects of Divine Providence; cannot but view them as plain demonstrations of his displeasure. We have been warned and chastised, first more gently, then more terribly; but not returning to him that smites us, his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. Judgment yet proceeds, the prospect becomes darker and darker, and all things respecting us are loudly alarming. When God judges he will overcome; none have ever hardened themselves against him and prospered. Nothing but impiety rouses his vengeance, and nothing but repentance towards him, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, can turn it away. We have not so much as the least reason to expect deliverance and safety in a way of impenitent sinning; for we are assured, if we walk contrary to our God, he will walk contrary to us, and will punish us yet seven times more for our iniquity. And as we judge that extraordinary distresses are calls to extraordinary humiliation and acts of devotion, so we look on ourselves bound, not only as members of the community, but by the duty of our office, as those who are entrusted with the declaration of God's revealed will, to warn all who will attend unto us, and earnestly exhort them to prostrate themselves before his offended majesty, in the humblest manner; to deprecate his righteous displeasure; implore his mercy for themselves, their children, country, and nation, their and our rightful and gracious sovereign King George the second, his royal family, all officers civil and military, and the whole Church of God; and solemnly endeavour sincere and thorough reformation. For this purpose the Synod agree to recommend the last Thursday of this instant, to be observed as a day of public fasting and prayer, in all the congregations under our care. We also recommend to all the members of

our body, that they exert themselves in promoting a reformation from those evils which have evidently kindled the anger of heaven against this land; and that they would frequently urge the necessity of such a reformation in this day.

Signed in the name of the Synod,

RICHARD TREAT, Synod clerk.

The Synod order their clerk to transcribe out of the Synod book such of their minutes as relate to the Presbyterian congregation in New York, and send them to Mr. Burr as soon as may be, in order to be transmitted to Scotland if need shall require.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, and then to meet at New York; when, for many reasons, the Synod desires that their meeting may be as full as possible; and should the small-pox be in New York at that time, the moderator is empowered to appoint it at any other place he shall judge proper, giving due notice. Concluded with prayer.

1757.

The Synod met at Maidenhead, according to appointment.

May 18*th*, 1757. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Minister of Suffolk Presbytery: Mr. Ebenezer Prime.

Ministers of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Aaron Burr, David Bostwick, Azariah Horton, Nathaniel Whitaker, Timothy Jones.

Ministers of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, Thomas Lewis, James McCrea, Charles McKnight, Samuel Kennedy, Israel Read, Samuel Harker, Benjamin Hait.

Ministers of Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Benjamin Chesnut, Henry Marten, Daniel Lawrence, Andrew Hunter, William Ramsey.

Ministers of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. John Rodgers, Robert Smith, Hugh Henry, James Finley, Samuel Finley, George Duffield.

Elders: Jacob Ford, David Harriot, William Lynn, Stephen Pangburn, Abraham Larew, Robert Armer, John Charlesworth, Robert Evans, Joseph Peck, James Evans.

Ministers absent, Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Silvanus White, Benjamin Talmage, Abner Reeves.

New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, Simon Horton, John Brainerd, Timothy Allen, John Smith, Jacob Green, Elihu Spencer, Daniel Thane, Aaron Richards, Enos Ayres, Chancey Graham, John Moffett, Jonathan Elmore, Hugh Knox, John Maltby, Caleb Smith, Alexander Cumming.

New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. James Davenport, Job Prudden, Conradus Worts.

Abington Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Nehemiah Greenman.

New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. John Blair, Charles Tennent, James Campbell, John Roan, Andrew Bay, John Hogg, Andrew Stirling, Moses Tuttle, John Harris, Hugh McAdams.

Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Davies, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, John Brown, John Todd, John Wright.

Ministers in all, present and absent, seventy-three.

Mr. Bostwick was chosen moderator for the year ensuing, Mr. Treat clerk.

The small-pox being in New York, the appointed place of this present

meeting, the moderator appointed the Synod to meet in this place pursuant to the powers committed to him by the last Synod.

Messrs. Read, Harker, Chesnut, Robert Smith, James Finley, and Hugh Henry, gave the reasons of their absence the last Synod, which were sustained.

Messrs. John Pierson, Aaron Burr, Elihu Spencer, Ebenezer Prime, James Brown, William Tennent, James Davenport, Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles Tennent, Samuel Finley, John Rodgers, and the moderator, are appointed to be the commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

There being only one Presbytery book brought, the Synod made no appointment for the revising the same, but order that all of them be brought the next meeting.

Messrs. Beatty, Rogers, James Finly, and the moderator, are appointed to be a committee of overtures, and for any other business the Synod shall recommend unto them.

Such members as have complied with the Synod's order for getting collections for the college, are ordered to pay the same to the president.

The order of the last Synod respecting the getting of proper receipts or certificates from the president of New Jersey college, for money deposited in the treasury of said college under the direction of this Synod, not being fulfilled, the Synod appoint Mr. William Tennent to do the same and have it ready against the next meeting.

The committee appointed to meet for the examination of such candidates as should offer themselves, to share in such money as the Synod hath to dispose of for the education of sound, pious, and promising students, at the college of New Jersey, do make report, that they met, and having laid before the Synod the minutes of their proceedings, they are approved and ordered to be recorded as follows:

"*Princeton, November* 23, 1756.

"The committee of the Synod of New York met, according to appointment, and opened by prayer.

"Present: Messrs. President Burr, William Tennent, Richard Treat, James Davenport, Charles McKnight, Benjamin Hait.

"Mr. Tennent moderator, Mr. Treat clerk.

"The committee proceeded to the business assigned them by the Synod.

"John Strain and John Carmikle offered themselves for examination as candidates to receive assistance from the fund designed for the support of such pious youths as are of Calvinistic principles, and are unable to support themselves, at the college of New Jersey. The committee, upon particular examination, concluded they were persons of such character as were to be encouraged and assisted, and therefore agreed to allow unto John Strain the sum of twenty-four pounds, to John Carmikle the sum of twelve pounds, for this year. Concluded with prayer."

The Synod do appoint the aforesaid committee to stand for this year also, and to meet at Princeton the last Wednesday of July next for the same purpose.

The Synod do agree to allow Mr. Brainerd, a missionary to the Indians, the interest of the money under their direction for the propagation of the gospel among the Indians for the next year, in case the correspondents shall continue him in the mission.

The affair of getting a fund for the support of ministers' widows and orphans, referred to this Synod, came under consideration, but for want of proper plans they could not proceed in it, and do appoint Messrs. Bostwick, Green, Jones,

Spencer, and Caleb Smith, to prepare a plan to be laid before the next Synod.

The order of the last Synod, for an address to be presented to Lord Lowden, for want of a proper opportunity, was not complied with.

The appointments to the southward for supplies were not fulfilled, a d upon proper inquiry the reasons offered for the omission were sustained. And in order to supply said southward vacancies, the Synod does appoint Mr. Hait to take a journey thither as soon as his affairs will permit, and spend four months among them. The Synod does also recommend it to the Presbytery of New Castle to send another. The Synod also appoints the Presbytery of Hanover to spend one with Mr. Hait when he shall come to them. They do also appoint Mr. Samuel Finly to give them certificates in the name of the Synod.

The committee of overtures appointed to meet at nine of the clock, to-morrow morning.

The Synod adjourned to half an hour after nine. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, half after nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to meet with the commission of the Synod of Philadelphia to confer about the union, do make report, that they met according to appointment; that they found the commissioners of the Philadelphia Synod well disposed towards an union; that they declared for themselves, and doubted not but their Synod would also readily declare, that they do not look upon the protest as the act of their body nor adopt it as such, and that there appeared also to be an agreement on both sides concerning the nature and right of protesting, and other things formerly proposed as necessary to an union. And it was further agreed on by the commissioners on both sides, that they would propose to their respective Synods, to have their next meeting at the same time and place, in order to unite, in case matters shall appear at that time ripe for it.

The Synod taking into consideration the report of their committee, are pleased to find so desirable a prospect of an union, and do agree that their next meeting be in Philadelphia at the time of the meeting of the Synod of Philadelphia, and propose that the commission of each Synod meet at Philadelphia on the Monday next before the said meeting, at ten of the clock, in order to prepare matters for both Synods and their happy union. And they do appoint, that this agreement and proposal be communicated to the Synod of Philadelphia for their concurrence.

The Synod does also appoint Messrs. Samuel and James Finley, John Blair, Robert Smith, and John Rodgers, to prepare a plan as the ground of the aforesaid union, and bring it into the commission at their meeting.

An affair was overtured to the Synod by the committee of overtures, setting forth that some members of the congregation of Bedminster, under the ministerial charge of Mr. McCrea, requested the Synod to re-hear their case which was determined at their last meeting, alleging in support of their request that they did not offer what they might have done at the time of trial, and especially with respect to Mr. McCrea, and which they suppose, if it had been done and considered by the Synod, might have given them another view of things, and produced a different judgment in said affair.

The Synod, upon consideration of the affair, and what was at this time laid before them, do judge, that there is not sufficient reason offered them to re-hear said case, nor does the Synod suppose said people have sufficient reason to complain of the former judgments of Presbytery and Synod, as injurious to them,

seeing they only were in fault in not giving all the light they could when it was the proper season for it, and they were by no means on the part of the Synod prevented thereof; nevertheless, as the Synod would not improve the mistakes or omissions of any people against them, they refer said people to their own Presbytery to judge their cause, and to right them if they find them injured by any former judgment, and in particular to hear and judge of such articles as they have to exhibit against Mr. McCrea, in case he be seasonably notified of them, and to grant them supplies of preaching, if regular application be made, and the Presbytery judge it to be proper.

The Synod considering the present posture of public affairs, do judge they loudly call for humiliation and prayer, and do, therefore, recommend to all their members and congregations, to keep the fourth Thursday of June next as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer.

Application having been made to the Synod, by a commissioner from the congregation of Newark, for some supplies in their destitute condition, the Synod does appoint Mr. Treat to supply them three Sabbaths in June, and as much more as he can.

The Synod does appoint the Presbytery of New York to supply Mr. Hait's congregation five Sabbaths, in case he fulfils his appointment to the southward.

Adjourned to the fourth Thursday of May next, to meet at Philadelphia at ten of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

1758.

The Synod met according to appointment.

Philadelphia, May the 25th, 1758. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. David Bostwick, Azariah Horton, Nathaniel Whitaker, Daniel Thane, Aaron Richards, Caleb Smith, Abraham Kettletas, William Tennent, Thomas Lewis, Charles McKnight, Samuel Kennedy, Benjamin Hait, Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Benjamin Chesnut, Henry Marten, Daniel Lawrence, Andrew Hunter, Nehemiah Greenman, William Ramsey, John Rodgers, Robert Smith, Samuel Finley, James Finley, George Duffield, John Blair, Charles Tennent, John Roan, Moses Tuttle, John Harris, Samuel Davies.—32.

Elders: Messrs. Nathaniel Silsby, Job Brown, David Rhea, Robert Newil, William Norcross, Joshua Thomas, Jonathan Holmes, Henry Pierson, Thomas Brown, John Vandyke, Thomas Flemins, James Evans, James Cochran, William McCrea, William Craighead, Hugh Hamilton, Brice Ricky, Francis Alexander.—13.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Silvanus White, Benjamin Talmage, Abner Reeves, Timothy Jones, John Pierson, Simon Horton, John Brainerd, Timothy Allen, John Smith, Jacob Green, Elihu Spencer, Enos Ayres, Chauncy Graham, John Moffet, Jonathan Elmore, Hugh Knox, John Maltbie, Alexander Cummins, James McCrea, Israel Read, Samuel Harker, Job Prudden, Conradus Worts, Hugh Henry, James Campbel, Andrew Bay, John Hogg, Andrew Sterling, Hugh McAdam, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, James Brown, John Todd, John Wright, John Marten.—40 absent, 32 present, in all 72.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on 2 Cor. iv. 5, by Mr. Bostwick, the last year's moderator.

Mr. Davies was chosen moderator, Mr. Rogers clerk.

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Samuel Kennedy and James Finley are now come, with their elders, Brice Rickey and Francis Alexander.

Messrs. Thane, Caleb Smith, Richards, Gilbert Tennent, Greenman, Blair, Charles Tennent, Roan, Tuttle, Harris, and the moderator, gave reasons for their absence the last Synod, which were sustained.

Mr. Pierson sent reasons for his present absence, which are sustained.

The Rev. Aaron Burr and James Davenport are removed by death since our last Synod.

Mr. James Campbell is removed out of the bounds of our Synod, since the last meeting.

Messrs. John Pierson, Azariah Horton, David Bostwick, Caleb Smith, Ebenezer Prime, James Brown, William Tennent, Charles McKnight, Thomas Lewis, Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, Charles Tennent, Samuel Finley, John Blair, John Rogers, John Todd, and the moderator, are appointed a commission of the Synod for the year ensuing.

Inasmuch as the moderator lives at so great a distance, and cannot call the commission for the ensuing year, should there be need for it, Mr. Gilbert Tennent is appointed as moderator for this purpose.

Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Samuel Finly, John Blair, Richard Treat, and the moderator, are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet at eight of the clock to-morrow morning.

The Presbytery books of New York, New Castle, and New Brunswick, are brought. Messrs. Caleb Smith and Horton are appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Brunswick; Messrs. Robert Smith and Roan to revise that of New York; and Messrs. Bostwick and Hait that of New Castle.

The order of the last Synod, respecting the money under the direction of this Synod, in the treasury of New Jersey College, not being complied with, the said order continued.

The Synod does moreover appoint Messrs. Samuel Kennedy, Benjamin Hait, and Abraham Kettletas, or any two of them, to be a committee to meet with the committee of the trustees of the college, to settle the accounts of the money which is in their treasury, at the direction of this Synod, and make report thereof at our next meeting.

The Synod does also appoint that the receipts for said money to be taken in their name and behalf, be given to the gentlemen above mentioned, and that the time of their meeting be at the examination at Nassau Hall, the last Wednesday of July.

The committee appointed by the last Synod for the examining the subjects that offer for the donations at the direction of this Synod, make report that they met, according to appointment. The minutes of their doings are as follows:

"*Princetown, July* 29, 1757.

"The committee appointed by the Synod for the examination of candidates for the fund designed for the support of pious youth at the New Jersey College, met according to appointment. Present, Messrs. Aaron Burr, William Tennent, and Richard Treat.

"The committee having received satisfaction as to the piety of —— Curtise and James Leslie, and the desirable prospect of their usefulness, conclude to allow, out of said fund, to Curtise, ten pounds ten shillings, and to Leslie, thirteen pounds, which the president is ordered to pay them, and charge the same to account of said fund.

"Mr. William Tennent is appointed to inquire whether said sums have been paid, and if not, to draw on the treasurer for them.

"Ordered, That Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, William Tennent, Richard Treat, Caleb Smith, Alexander Cummins, Charles McKnight, and Benjamin Hait, be a committee for examining such youth as may offer themselves for the benefit of the above donation, and dispose the same for one year to such, and in such proportions as they shall judge best and meet, at the time of examination above mentioned."

Upon application made, the Synod agree to allow Mr. William Tennent twenty pounds out of the Indian fund for payment of a schoolmaster among them, and other contingent expenses relating to the school.

The committee appointed for drawing up a plan for the widows' fund, have not complied therewith; their reasons were sustained. This affair further deferred.

Mr. Hait has not complied with the appointment of our last, in going to the southward; his reasons are sustained.

The Presbytery of New Castle have not complied with the appointment in sending one of their number to the southward colonies; their reasons are sustained.

Adjourned to nine of the clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Brunswick Presbytery book revised, brought in, and approved.

The appointment of a day of fasting and prayer by our last Synod was complied with.

David Rhea, Mr. William Tennent's elder, has leave to go home.

The committee appointed by the last Synod, for preparing a plan of union, fulfilled said appointment; which plan was brought into the commission of this Synod according to order, read, and considered. A mutual and friendly conference between the commission of both Synods was held, in which a committee of both commissions was agreed upon, and appointed to meet and prepare a plan, to be laid before both Synods, which being done, was brought into this Synod and read.

While the said plan was under consideration, a message was sent from the Synod of Philadelphia, by the Rev. Mr. McDowell, desiring the aforesaid committee might be appointed to meet again, to confer about any alterations that may be proposed by either Synod, in the plan aforesaid, which motion was readily complied with, and the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Finley, John Blair, David Bostwick, and the moderator, who were the committee of the commission aforesaid, were appointed for this purpose.

"Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The New Castle Presbytery book revised, brought in, and approved.

The New York Presbytery book revised, brought in, and approved, except a paragraph in page 149, in which the Synod has not light to determine.

Application having been made to Mr. Beatty, by Colonel Armstrong, to serve as chaplain to the first battalion of the Pennsylvania provincials for the ensuing campaign, he requested the advice and judgment of this Synod, with respect to his duty therein. The Synod do unanimously agree that it is his duty to go.

Mr. Caleb Smith, and his elder, had leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Thomas Slemins, Mr. Robert Smith's elder, has leave to go home. As, likewise, has William McCrea, Mr. Charles Tennent's elder.

A petition was brought in, from the Society for managing the Indian Mission in Virginia, requesting that the interest of the money under the direction of this Synod, for the propagating the gospel among the Indians, may be allowed them for one year. The Synod, though sincerely disposed to do every thing in their power to favour that pious mission, yet as the interest of that money is already disposed of, they cannot comply with the aforesaid request.

A supplication was brought in from Itico, Enno, and the Haw fields in North Carolina, for supplies, and for a candidate to be sent among them in order for settlement.

As several of our members are to be absent from their respective congregations this summer, on public affairs, which this Synod approve of, the Synod took into consideration how to supply said congregations. And for supplies for Mr. Beatty's congregation, the Synod does appoint Mr. Thane the last Sabbath in June, and the first in July; Mr. Lawrence the second and third Sabbaths of July; Mr. Hunter the last in July and first in August; Mr. Rogers the third and fourth Sabbaths in August; Mr. Ramsey the second, third, and fourth Sabbaths of September; Mr. Thane the first and second Sabbaths of October; that Mr. Marten and Mr. Chesnutt each supply two Sabbaths at the times wherein none is provided.

The Synod does also appoint Mr. Greenman to supply one Sabbath for Mr. Hunter, and another for Mr. Ramsey, during their supplying for Mr. Beatty.

The Synod does appoint the Presbytery of New York to supply Newark the whole of the time during Mr. Brainerd's absence from them.

And in case Mr. Spencer shall go out as chaplain with the New York forces, the Synod appoints Mr. Simon Horton to supply Jamaica congregation three Sabbaths, and Mr. John Smith two Sabbaths, and that the Presbytery of Suffolk supply seven-eighths of the remaining time of his absence.

That since Mr. Caleb Smith is to be absent from his congregation three-fourths of his time for this summer, in the service of the College of New Jersey, the Synod does appoint the Presbytery of New Brunswick to assist to their utmost in supplying his congregation.

Adjourned to ten of the clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

29th day, at ten of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod appoints the Presbytery of New Brunswick to send a candidate to Itico, Enno, and the Haw fields, if possible, before the next Synod.

It is also earnestly recommended to the Presbytery of Suffolk, to send Mr. Brush to those important vacancies as soon as possible; and Mr. Bostwick is appointed to inform them of the same.

Upon application made by two members of the Society in Virginia for managing the Indian Mission, setting forth the desirableness and advantage of a correspondence between this Synod and said society, Mr. Gilbert Tennent is appointed on the part of this Synod, to correspond with the secretary of said society in case there shall be occasion for it.

A reference was brought into the Synod from the New Brunswick Presbytery, respecting Mr. Samuel Harker, one of their members, as having imbibed and vented certain erroneous doctrines; the further consideration of this affair deferred till the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. Harker reassumed. The Synod, after serious consideration had, do agree that, inasmuch as Mr. Harker is absent they cannot proceed to a regular determination of said affair, and do therefore appoint Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Richard Treat, Samuel Finley, and John Blair, to deal with him as they shall have opportunity, in such manner as shall appear to them best adapted for his conviction; and refer the further determination to the next Synod if there shall be need; and in the mean time, the Synod does recommend it to the Presbytery of New Brunswick to take such measures as they shall judge best to prevent the spread and hurtful influence of those errors.

The Synod having seriously and maturely considered the plan of union laid before them by their commission, as before mentioned, with all the alterations and amendments proposed on either side, do unanimously approve of it, and agree to it, as a plan of union between the two Synods, and do judge it to be their duty to unite with the Synod of Philadelphia upon the same. And this Synod having a message brought them from the Synod of Philadelphia, informing of their approbation of, and agreement with, the aforesaid plan, and desire of union upon the same, desiring that the time and place of meeting in one body may be agreed upon, which was done the last *sederunt*, viz. at four of the clock this afternoon, in this house. And the time appointed for this meeting being come, and all other business being finished, this Synod, in order to the union aforesaid, adjourned, *sine die*. Concluded with prayer.

The preceding minutes, embracing the correspondence between the Synods of Philadelphia and New York, preparatory to their union, after a separation of so many years, will serve to show that the respective parties, while they materially differed on some points, important to the purity and unity of the Church, were agreed in their doctrinal sentiments, and in the cordial adoption of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms. When, therefore, time had allayed their excited feeling, and calm reflection led them to see their errors, and to propose measures for a re-union, it was comparatively easy to settle the preliminary terms, as no difference in doctrine intervened to defeat the arrangement.

This union was happily effected in the year 1758, upon the basis which may be found on record at their first meeting as a united body. The style of the body from that period until the organization of the General Assembly, was "The Synod of New York and Philadelphia," the minutes of which here follow.

PART FOURTH.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA,

FROM A. D. 1758 TO 1788.

1758.

Philadelphia, May 22d, 1758.

The commissions of the Synods of Philadelphia and New York met, according to an agreement of both Synods the year before, and prepared a plan of union to be offered to the consideration of each Synod, which was done on Thursday following, May 25th.

After the plan had been considered and approved in both Synods severally, each Synod notified this to the other, upon which, May 29, P. M. they met together, and chose Mr. Gilbert Tennent moderator, Mr. McDowell clerk. The Synod was then constituted with prayer.

Ministers present: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, moderator, David Bostwick, Abraham Kettletas, Aaron Richards, Nathaniel Whitaker, Azariah Horton, William Tennent, Samuel Kennedy, Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Hait, Charles McKnight, David Cowel, Charles Beatty, Richard Treat, Henry Martin, Robert Cross, Francis Alison, Benjamin Chesnut, Andrew Hunter, Nehemiah Greenman, William Ramsey, Daniel Lawrence, John Harris, Moses Tuttle, John Miller, John Rogers, Hector Alison, Daniel Thane, Charles Tennent, William McKennan, Samuel Finly, James Finly, Sampson Smith, John Blair, Adam Boyd, Robert Smith, Joseph Tate, John Roan, George Duffield, John Steel, Samuel Davies, Alexander McDowell.*

Ministers absent: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Samuel Bewel, James Brown, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Silvanus White, Benjamin Talmage, Abner Reeves, Timothy Jones, John Pierson, Simon Horton, John Brainerd, Timothy Allen, John Smith, Jacob Green, Elihu Spencer, Enos Ayres, Chancey Graham, John Moffet, Jonathan Elmore, Hugh Knox, John Darby, John Maltby, Alexander Cummins, James McCrea, Israel Read, Job Prudden, Conradus Worts, Hugh Henry, Andrew Bay, John Hogg, John Wright, Andrew Sterling, Hugh McAdam, Caleb Smith, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, John Brown, John Todd, John Martin, Samuel Black, Richard Sanchy, John Elder, John Craig, Alexander Miller, Samuel Thomson, Robert McMordie, George Gillespie, Matthew Wilson, John Guild, John Kinkead, Alexander Hutchinson.

The plan of union agreed upon between the Synods of New York and Philadelphia, at their meeting at Philadelphia, May 29th, 1758.

The Synods of New York and Philadelphia, taking into serious consideration the present divided state of the Presbyterian church in this land, and being deeply sensible that the division of the church tends to weaken its interests,

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* There were fourteen Elders present at this meeting, but the manuscript is so mutilated that only their first names appear.

to dishonour religion, and consequently its glorious Author; to render government and discipline ineffectual, and finally to dissolve its very frame; and being desirous to pursue such measures as may most tend to the glory of God and the establishment and edification of his people, do judge it to be our indispensable duty to study the things that make for peace, and to endeavour the healing of that breach which has for some time subsisted amongst us, that so its hurtful consequences may not extend to posterity; that all occasion of reproach upon our society may be removed, and that we may carry on the great designs of religion to better advantage than we can do in a divided state; and since both Synods continue to profess the same principles of faith, and adhere to the same form of worship, government, and discipline, there is the greater reason to endeavour the compromising those differences, which were agitated many years ago with too great warmth and animosity, and unite in one body.

For which end, and that no jealousies or grounds of alienation may remain, and also to prevent future breaches of like nature, we agree to unite and do unite in one body, under the name of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, on the following plan.

I. Both Synods having always approved and received the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Larger and Shorter Catechisms, as an orthodox and excellent system of Christian doctrine, founded on the word of God, we do still receive the same as the confession of our faith, and also adhere to the plan of worship, government, and discipline, contained in the Westminster Directory, strictly enjoining it on all our members and probationers for the ministry, that they preach and teach according to the form of sound words in said Confession and Catechisms, and avoid and oppose all errors contrary thereto.

II. That when any matter is determined by a major vote, every member shall either actively concur with, or passively submit to such determination; or, if his conscience permit him to do neither, he shall, after sufficient liberty modestly to reason and remonstrate, peaceably withdraw from our communion, without attempting to make any schism. Provided always, that this shall be understood to extend only to such determinations as the body shall judge indispensable in doctrine or Presbyterian government.

III. That any member or members, for the exoneration of his or their conscience before God, have a right to protest against any act or procedure of our highest judicature, because there is no further appeal to another for redress; and to require that such protestation be recorded in their minutes. And as such a protest is a solemn appeal from the bar of said judicature, no member is liable to prosecution on the account of his protesting. Provided always, that it shall be deemed irregular and unlawful, to enter a protestation against any member or members, or to protest facts or accusations instead of proving them, unless a fair trial be refused, even by the highest judicature. And it is agreed, that protestations are only to be entered against the public acts, judgments, or determinations of the judicature with which the protester's conscience is offended.

IV. As the protestation entered in the Synod of Philadelphia, *Ann. Dom.* 1741, has been apprehended to have been approved and received by an act of said Synod, and on that account was judged a sufficient obstacle to an union; the said Synod declare, that they never judicially adopted the said protestation, nor do account it a Synodical act, but that it is to be considered as the act of those only who subscribed it; and therefore cannot in its nature be a valid objection to the union of the two Synods, especially considering that a very great majority of both Synods have become members, since the said protestation was entered.

V. That it shall be esteemed and treated as a censurable evil, to accuse any member of heterodoxy, insufficiency, or immorality, in a calumniating man-

ner, or otherwise than by private brotherly admonition, or by a regular process according to our known rules of judicial trial in cases of scandal. And it shall be considered in the same view, if any Presbytery appoint supplies within the bounds of another Presbytery without their concurrence; or if any member officiate in another's congregation, without asking and obtaining his consent, or the session's in case the minister be absent; yet it shall be esteemed unbrotherly for any one, in ordinary circumstances, to refuse his consent to a regular member when it is requested.

VI. That no Presbytery shall license or ordain to the work of the ministry, any candidate, until he give them competent satisfaction as to his learning, and experimental acquaintance with religion, and skill in divinity and cases of conscience; and declare his acceptance of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms as the confession of his faith, and promise subjection to the Presbyterian plan of government in the Westminster Directory.

VII. The Synods declare it is their earnest desire, that a complete union may be obtained as soon as possible, and agree that the united Synod shall model the several Presbyteries in such manner as shall appear to them most expedient. Provided nevertheless, that Presbyteries, where an alteration does not appear to be for edification, continue in their present form. As to divided congregations it is agreed, that such as have settled ministers on both sides be allowed to continue as they are; that where those of one side have a settled minister, the other being vacant, may join with the settled minister, if a majority choose so to do; that when both sides are vacant they shall be at liberty to unite together.

VIII. As the late religious appearances occasioned much speculation and debate, the members of the New York Synod, in order to prevent any misapprehensions, declare their adherence to their former sentiments in favour of them, that a blessed work of God's Holy Spirit in the conversion of numbers was then carried on; and for the satisfaction of all concerned, this united Synod agree in declaring, that as all mankind are naturally dead in trespasses and sins an entire change of heart and life is necessary to make them meet for the service and enjoyment of God; that such a change can be only effected by the powerful operations of the Divine Spirit; that when sinners are made sensible of their lost condition and absolute inability to recover themselves, are enlightened in the knowledge of Christ and convinced of his ability and willingness to save, and upon gospel encouragements do choose him for their Saviour, and renouncing their own righteousness in point of merit, depend upon his imputed righteousness for their justification before God, and on his wisdom and strength for guidance and support; when upon these apprehensions and exercises their souls are comforted, notwithstanding all their past guilt, and rejoice in God through Jesus Christ; when they hate and bewail their sins of heart and life, delight in the laws of God without exception, reverently and diligently attend his ordinances, become humble and self denied, and make it the business of their lives to please and glorify God and to do good to their fellow men; this is to be acknowledged as a gracious work of God, even though it should be attended with unusual bodily commotions or some more exceptionable circumstances, by means of infirmity, temptations, or remaining corruptions; and wherever religious appearances are attended with the good effects above mentioned, we desire to rejoice in and thank God for them.

But on the other hand, when persons seeming to be under a religious concern, imagine that they have visions of the human nature of Jesus Christ, or hear voices, or see external lights, or have fainting and convulsion-like fits, and on the account of these judge themselves to be truly converted, though they have not the Scriptural characters of a work of God above described, we believe

such persons are under a dangerous delusion. And we testify our utter disapprobation of such a delusion, wherever it attends any religious appearances, in any church or time.

Now as both Synods are agreed in their sentiments concerning the nature of a work of grace, and declare their desire and purpose to promote it, different judgments respecting particular matters of fact, ought not to prevent their union; especially as many of the present members have entered into the ministry since the time of the aforesaid religious appearances.

Upon the whole, as the design of our union is the advancement of the Mediator's kingdom; and as the wise and faithful discharge of the ministerial function is the principal appointed mean for that glorious end, we judge, that this is a proper occasion to manifest our sincere intention, unitedly to exert ourselves to fulfil the ministry we have received of the Lord Jesus. Accordingly, we unanimously declare our serious and fixed resolution, by divine aid, to take heed to ourselves that our hearts be upright, our discourse edifying, and our lives exemplary for purity and godliness; to take heed to our doctrine, that it be not only orthodox but evangelical and spiritual, tending to awaken the secure to a suitable concern for their salvation, and to instruct and encourage sincere Christians; thus commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God; to cultivate peace and harmony among ourselves, and strengthen each other's hands in promoting the knowledge of divine truth, and diffusing the savour of piety among our people.

Finally, we earnestly recommend it to all under our care, that instead of indulging a contentious disposition, they would love each other with a pure heart fervently, as brethren who profess subjection to the same Lord, adhere to the same faith, worship, and government, and entertain the same hope of glory. And we desire that they would improve the present union for their mutual edification, combine to strengthen the common interests of religion, and go hand in hand in the path of life; which we pray the God of all grace would please to effect, for Christ's sake. Amen.

The Synod agree, that all former differences and disputes are laid aside and buried; and that no future inquiry or vote shall be proposed in this Synod concerning these things; but if any member seek a Synodical inquiry, or declaration about any of the matters of our past differences, it shall be deemed a censurable breach of this agreement, and be refused, and he be rebuked accordingly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 30th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment, and post preces sederunt qui supra.

The modelling of the several Presbyteries was taken under consideration.

Agreed, that the Presbyteries of Suffolk and New York continue as they are.

Agreed, that the Presbytery of New Brunswick continue as it is, only that Messrs. Cowel and Guild are added to it.

And those three Presbyteries shall meet for the first time according to their several appointments made by themselves already.

Agreed, that Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Francis Alison, Treat, Chesnut, Martin, Beatty, Greenman, Hunter, Ramsey, Lawrence, and Kinkead, be the Presbytery of Philadelphia, to meet for the first time on Wednesday next, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the old Presbyterian church.

Agreed, that Messrs. John Miller, Tuttle, Harris, Henry, and Wilson, be a Lewestown Presbytery, and have the congregations in Kent on Delaware, Sussex, Worcester, Somerset, Dorset, Queen Anne's, and Kent, in Maryland,

under their care, to meet first at Cool Spring on the last Tuesday of July next; and that the Presbyteries of New Castle assist them in supplying their vacancies till they be further provided with settled pastors.

Agreed, that the first and second Presbyteries of New Castle and Donnegal continue as they are for the present, only they shall correspond with each other at their meetings.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met, and post preces sederunt qui supra.

At Mr. Thane's request, being disannexed from the Presbytery of New York, he is left at liberty to join either of the New Castle Presbyteries or Lewiston, before our next.

Agreed, that Messrs. Craighead, Black, Craig, Miller, Davies, Todd, Henry, Wright, Brown, and Martin, in Virginia and southward, be the Presbytery of Hanover, to meet for the first time at Mr. Wright's congregation in Cumberland county, on the second Wednesday of July next.

Several very earnest applications were made to the Synod by Welch people in different parts, representing that many among them understand not the English tongue, and unless they have a pastor capable of speaking in their own language they must live entirely destitute of ordinances; that a certain Mr. John Griffith, came some years ago from Wales, with good certificates of his Christian knowledge and piety, though he has not had a liberal education, and of being there licensed to preach the gospel; that he has preached among them to their great satisfaction, and therefore pray the Synod to ordain him to the ministry, that he may both preach and also administer the sacraments among them.

Upon considering the case, the Synod find that several members have seen his certificates from Wales, that some have conversed with him and were much satisfied with his Christian knowledge and acquaintance with experimental religion; that those of the Welch here, who testify to the Synod concerning his useful preaching and pious conduct, are known to be men of judgment and integrity; and as the circumstances of that people are singular, and no other way appears in which they can enjoy ordinances, the Synod agree, that the said Mr. John Griffith, though he has not the measure of school learning usually required, and which they judge to be ordinarily requisite, be ordained to the work of the ministry; and appoint Messrs. Samuel Davies, Dr. Alison, Treat, Hunter, and Kettletas, to be a Presbytery *pro re nata*, to ordain him to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison and the clerk prepare reasons for a fast to be appointed by the Synod, and for congregations employing days in joint prayer during the present calamities.

Agreed, that appointments made by the several Synods and Presbyteries before union, which are not inconsistent therewith, be fulfilled.

Agreed, that the commissions appointed before by the two Synods, with the present moderator, be together the commission of this Synod for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and concluded with prayer.

May 31st, the Synod met according to adjournment, and post preces sederunt qui supra.

Agreed, that the several funds which were under the care of the Synods of Philadelphia and New York, shall be under the direction of this Synod, to be

applied to their respective uses and designs specified in the books relating to these funds as heretofore.

A case of conscience was proposed, and the consideration of it deferred till our next meeting.

Agreed, That Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, and Treat, be a committee to correspond in the name of the Synod, with the churches of our persuasion in Britain and Ireland, and in these colonies and elsewhere, by means of proper persons in these churches, for the ensuing year.

Ordered, That Mr. McDowell supply at Middleton next Sabbath.

The Synod being informed by Mr. Cross and Dr. Alison, that the honourable trustees in London for the fund, raised for German emigrants, have allowed an annual sum to assist the Synod in maintaining a school for educating youths for the ministry among us, wherein some Dutch children are to be taught gratis, if they apply for it: Agreed, that this affair be left to the committee for correspondence for the ensuing year.

The members appointed to be a Presbytery, *pro re nata*, to ordain Mr. John Griffith, brought in the following report:

"The members appointed to be a Presbytery, *pro re nata*, met according to appointment, and chose Mr. Davis moderator, Dr. Alison clerk.

"Mr. John Griffith appeared before us, and after proper questions proposed to him, (as preparatory,) to our satisfaction, his receiving the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, &c. according to the agreement of this Synod, and professing subjection to them, the Presbytery agreed to proceed immediately to his ordination; and accordingly, the Presbytery, with imposition of hands and prayer, set apart the said Mr. John Griffith to the gospel ministry.

Concluded with prayer."

Ordered, That Mr. Griffith belong to Philadelphia Presbytery.

The committee appointed, brought in the following overture for a fast, &c. which is approved and agreed unto.

Considering the calamities of war, and dangers that threaten us from savage and antichristian enemies, the ravages and barbarities committed on our borders, and how much our safety and welfare depend on the success of this campaign; and being sensible that God has been greatly provoked by our ingratitude for mercies received, the decay of vital religion, the prevailing of vice and immorality in the land, and the contempt of gospel light, liberty, and privileges, we judge ourselves loudly called upon to repentance and humiliation, and accordingly the Synod recommend that a day of fasting and prayer be observed by all the congregations under our care, to deprecate the wrath of God, to pray for a blessing on his majesty's armaments by sea and land, in order to procure a lasting and honourable peace, and in particular for the success of all our intended expeditions in America; for the prosperity of his Prussian majesty's arms, and advancement of the Protestant interest; for the overthrow of antichristian errors, superstition, and tyranny; and the universal spread of pure and undefiled religion. And 'tis ordered, that the members within the bounds of this province, observe it on the sixteenth of June next, being the day appointed by this government for that purpose; and that those brethren who live in the bounds of other governments, observe it on such a day in June or July next as the several Presbyteries think proper.

And as prayer has been made without ceasing, by the Church in times of imminent danger, and God has heard his people in a day of trouble, and delivered them, the Synod recommend that some time be spent in social prayer, by every congregation within their bounds on the last Thursday of every month, during these times of trouble and rebuke. And that with these professions of humiliation, ministers and people earnestly plead with God for more abundant effusions of the gracious influences of his Holy Spirit, that

they may be disposed to sobriety, peace, charity, submission to the Divine will, and be prepared for every good work; that their practice may be agreeable to their profession; and their light so shine before men, that they beholding their humble, pious conversation, may glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Ordered, That the clerk purchase a new book, and insert the minutes of this Synod, and that the Synod pay the cost.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. on the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1759.

Philadelphia, May 16th, 1759, at the Second Presbyterian Church.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. John Wright, John Todd, Samuel Black, John Craig, Alexander Miller, John Brown, Hugh Henry, John Harris, Matthew Wilson, John Miller, Daniel Thane, Adam Boyd, Hector Alison, Sampson Smith, William McCannan, John Rodgers, John Blair, James Finly, John Hogge, Hugh McCaddan, George Duffield, Robert Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Francis Alison, Charles Beatty, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, Benjamin Chesnutt, William Ramsey, Harry Munro, Charles McKnight, Benjamin Hait, Israel Reed, John Guild, Caleb Smith, Aaron Richards, Nathaniel Whitaker, Abraham Kettletas, Benjamin Woodroof, Azariah Horton, Alexander Cummings, John Brainerd, Abner Brush, Elihu Spencer.

Elders: Messrs. John Anderson, John Hardman, John Flint, John Mustard, Thomas Scott, David Stewart, John Love, Theophilus Alexander, John McKnight, Thomas Brown, Richard Walker, Nathaniel Dimon, Jacob Reader, Thomas Coon, Joseph Lyon, John Woodroof.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Samuel Davies, Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, Henry Patillo, William Richardson, John Martin, Jonathan Pierson, Timothy Jones, Jacob Green, Jonathan Elmore, David Bostwick, Simon Horton, John Smith, Chauncy Graham, Enos Ayres, John Moffet, John Darby, Timothy Allen, John Maltby, Hugh Knox, Nehemiah Greenman, Henry Martin, John Griffiths, William Tennent, David Cowel, James McCrea, Samuel Kennedy, Thomas Lewis, Conradus Worts, Ebenezer Prime, Benjamin Talmage, Abner Reeve, Sylvanus White, James Brown, Samuel Bewel, Moses Baldwine, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Moses Tuttle, Alexander Hutchison, Charles Tennent, Samuel Finly, Samuel Harker, Andrew Bay, Andrew Sterling, Robert Smith, John Roan, John Elder, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Thomson, Robert McMurdie, Joseph Tate, John Steel, George Gillespie, Alexander McDowel.

The Synod was opened with a sermon by Mr. Gilbert Tennent, the last year's moderator, on Matthew v. 9.

Mr. Ross, a minister from New England, being present, was invited to sit as a correspondent.

Mr. Cross was chosen moderator, Mr. John Blair clerk.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

17th day. Nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Cross, on account of his age and bodily infirmity, declined the moderator's chair: Mr. Treat chosen in his stead.

Messrs. Charles Tennent and Samuel Harker are now come.

William McCrea, Mr. Tennent's elder.

The orders of last Synod respecting Presbyteries, were complied with, except that Messrs. Black, Craig, and Alexander Miller, have not met with the Presbytery of Hanover as members, by reason of a mistake concerning the meaning of the Synod's minute.

A motion was made by Messrs. Black, Craig, and Alexander Miller, that they and Messrs. Brown and Hogge be erected into a distinct Presbytery; their reasons for it, and the objections of the other members of Hanover Presbytery against it, were fully heard.

The Synod judge that the number of ministers belonging to the Presbytery of Hanover is too small to be divided into two Presbyteries, and that their continuing in one, will, at present, be more for edification; and for the greater ease of the whole, the Synod order that the Presbytery have two stated meetings in the year, at some nearly central places, alternately above and below the mountains. But the Synod being sensible of the difficulties they will in the mean while labour under, assure them that as soon as their number shall be so increased as six or seven can conveniently belong to each Presbytery, that then, upon regular application, they shall be erected into two Presbyteries, provided no sufficiently weighty objection lie against it.

Whether the first and second Presbyteries of New Castle, and the Presbytery of Donegall, shall be new modelled, deferred till next *sederunt;* and ordered, the said Presbyteries shall meet half an hour before, in order to converse about the matter, that they may give light to the Synod on that head.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order of last *sederunt* to the New Castle and Donegall Presbyteries was complied with; and upon their report it is ordered, that Messrs. Sampson Smith, and Robert Smith, John Roan, John Hogge, be added to the Presbytery of Donegall, and that the first and second Presbyteries of New Castle be united in one Presbytery, to meet for the first time at West Nottingham, on the last Tuesday instant.

Provided always, that this change of the state of said Presbyteries shall not be understood to infringe the liberties of the several congregations in their bounds already provided for, and expressed in our plan of union.

The order respecting a day of public fasting and prayer was complied with.

Ordered, That Messrs. Charles Tennent, John Rodgers, James Finly, Azariah Horton, John Miller, and the moderator, be a committee of overtures, and for what other business the Synod may commit to them, to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

An application to the Synod from the board of trustees of the College of New Jersey, for the liberation of Mr. Davies from his pastoral charge, that he may accept the Presidency of said college to which they had elected him, was brought in and read.

A supplication was also brought in from Mr. Davies's congregation, earnestly requesting his continuance with them.

The Synod having seriously considered the congregation's supplication, and fully heard all the reasonings for and against Mr. Davies's liberation, after solemn prayer to God for direction, do upon the whole, judge that the arguments in favour of said liberation do preponderate, and agree that Mr. Davies's pastoral relation to his congregation be dissolved in order to his removal to the college, and do accordingly hereby dissolve it.

Sundry references from the minutes of last Synod.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

18*th day. Nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

A motion was made that the Synod should address both the Governor and Assembly in order to obtain the suppression of a play-house now erecting in the liberties of this city.

Ordered, That Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, Kettletas, Cummings, and Rodgers, be a committee to prepare addresses on that head, to be brought in as soon as they can.

Moved, That provision be made for the supply of Mr. Davies's congregation: this affair deferred till next *sederunt.*

In pursuance of an order of the late Synod of New York, an account of money in the treasury of the College of New Jersey, belonging to this Synod, was brought in, and is as follows:

An account of money in the treasury of the College of New Jersey, belonging to the Synod of New York, for the education of pious students, settled to the first day of October, 1758.

Received, October 1st, 1755, into the college treasury, as per Synod's records, ... Sterling,	£357	4	6
Advance, at sixty per cent. provincial currency, . . .	214	4	0
	£571	8	6
Deduct in part of expenses, ...	71	8	6
In the treasury, principal, provincial currency, . .	£500	0	0
Interest to October 1st, 1758, at six pounds per cent. three years, ...	90	0	0
Paid per order, -	62	4	11
Per order upon the treasurer, to be paid by October 1st, 1758, ...	27	15	1
	£90	0	0
Remains in the treasury, principal, ...	£500	0	0
The Indian stock, ...	337	15	0
Total,	£837	15	0

Ordered, That Messrs. Hait, Guild, Lewis, and Reed, be a committee for disposing the interest arising from said money, excepting the Indian fund, this year, to meet at Princeton at the time of examination.

Ordered, That Messrs. McWhorter, Kirkpatrick, and Latta, take a journey to Virginia and Carolina, as soon as they can this summer, or ensuing fall, and spend some months in those parts.

The Synod further considering the destitute condition of Hanover, and the uncertainty of their being supplied, if suppliers are left to their own discretion respecting the time of their going to Virginia, do order that Mr. Kirkpatrick prepare for his journey so as to be at Hanover the third Sabbath of July, at the furthest, and supply there for some time according to the order of that Presbytery; that Mr. McWhorter be at Hanover the first of September, and that Mr. Latta be there the first of November at the furthest; and that the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and New Brunswick take care that these gentlemen fulfil this appointment, and neither prescribe nor allow them employment in our bounds so as to disappoint this our good intention.

Ordered, That Mr. Lewis and these gentlemen supply Hanover and other vacancies, at the direction of the Presbytery of Hanover.

Mr. Brainerd applied to the Synod for their advice whether it was his duty to leave his present charge at Newark and resume his mission to the Indians.

Arguments on both sides were fully heard.

Though the Synod are tenderly affected with the case of Newark congregation, yet in consideration of the great importance of the Indian mission, they do unanimously advise Mr. Brainerd to resume it.

The Synod do further agree to give him the interest of the Indian fund for this year, in order to his more comfortable subsistence.

Ordered, That Mr. McKnight visit the Indians twice this summer, one of which times to be a Sabbath; and Messrs. Beatty and Latta each once.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Brainerd and Joseph Lyon, who had leave to go home.)

Mr. John Steel is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner sustained.

Mr. Brainerd being removed from Newark, it is ordered, that Messrs. Woodroof, Kettletas, Darby, and Cummings, supply there, each one Sabbath, if need be.

A reference from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, respecting a call from the first Presbyterian congregation in this city, offered to them to be presented to the Rev. Harry Munro, and objections against it by some members of said congregation, was brought into the Synod.

All papers relative to that affair were read, and all parties fully heard.

The Synod spent some time in reasoning upon this affair, but not having time to issue it, the further consideration of it is deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Finly and Theophilus Alexander, who had leave to go home.)

The late first Presbytery of New Castle reported that Mr. John Ewing was ordained since the opening of this session of Synod, accordingly he is now enrolled as a member.

Ordered, That Mr. Brush preach at college to-morrow.

The addresses to the Governor and Assembly not yet brought in.

A reference from the Presbytery of Hanover respecting an affair from Rockfish, was brought into the Synod, but the evidences respecting the affair not being here, the matter is referred back to said Presbytery.

The affair respecting the first Presbyterian congregation in this city was resumed.

In the course of reasonings upon it a case of conscience was put, viz. whether a minister, having connexion with any part of his majesty's regular forces as their chaplain, and receiving the salary, or any part thereof, as such, may or ought to accept of a stated pastoral relation to any congregation? which question was answered in the negative.

Upon a motion made by some members of the congregation, the affair is deferred till three o'clock, P. M. on Monday.

A complaint against the late first Presbytery of New Castle, by Janet Smith, was brought in, but as the matter is not ready for trial, the Synod appoint the present Presbytery of New Castle, and Messrs. Elder, Roan, John Miller, and Steel, to be a committee of the Synod to take such notice of the grounds of her complaint as they shall judge necessary; the committee to

meet at Chestnut Level, on the third Wednesday of June; the Presbytery of New Castle to cite necessary evidences, and notify the absent members who are appointed.

At Mr. Kinkead's request Messrs. Steel, Caleb Smith, Horton, and John Miller, ordered to be a committee to converse with him this afternoon.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, A. M. on Monday Concluded with prayer.

21st day, at ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Whitaker, who had leave to go in order to preach at Trenton.)

The committee appointed to converse with Mr. Kinkead, report, that they had not yet finished their conference.

Messrs. John Todd, Hugh Henry, John Miller, Adam Boyd, Samuel Finly, Joseph Tate, Robert Smith, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, William Tennent, John Guild, Caleb Smith, Azariah Horton, James Brown, Elihu Spencer, and the moderator, to be the commission of the Synod for this ensuing year, six of which number, and the moderator, to be a quorum.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Beatty applied to the Synod for advice, whether it was his duty to accept an invitation to go out as chaplain with the Pennsylvania troops this campaign.

The Synod having heard Mr. Beatty, and considered the representation made of the state of his congregation, judge it his duty to decline it.

The affair of the first Presbyterian congregation in this city, resumed.

The commissioners of the congregation were further heard upon a suggestion they had something new to offer.

The Synod had some conference with Mr. Monro. This affair further deferred.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Cummins, Kettletas, Charles Tennent, Sampson Smith, and Guild, who went without asking leave.)

The case of conscience brought into the last Synod, viz: whether a man who has married his half brother's widow, may lawfully live with her as his wife, was a little considered, but as the members have not generally closely examined this matter in its general nature, it is deferred till next Synod; and it is ordered, that the several members bring or send their sentiments in writing, and inform the absent members to do the like.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, Beatty, and the moderator, be a committee to manage respecting the German fund, and that Dr. Alison have authority to call the committee together as often as occasion may require.

Ordered, That the above persons, together with Mr. Davies, be a committee of correspondence for the ensuing year, and that they particuiarly propose to the Presbyterian churches abroad, to settle some plan of correspondence upon which it shall be carried on.

The affair of the first congregation of Philadelphia resumed; and after much reasoning upon it, the Synod conclude, that notwithstanding it appears there was some confusion attending the vote of the congregation respecting Mr. Munro, which might give some colour of complaint to the minor party, yet as there was a great majority for Mr. Munro, who still continue to adhere to him,

they judge the above said vote is so far legal, as that the Presbytery be allowed to present the call to Mr. Munro, to which judicature the further prosecution of this affair, (in consistency with the vote of Synod already passed,) is committed; though they cannot but testify their high disapprobation of the insulting, injurious manner in which some of the persons prosecuting said call have treated this judicature by an unchristian paper delivered in to them, which, however detestable, they desire to forgive as the ministers of Christ. And being greatly desirous of the welfare of this society, the Synod do earnestly recommend it to the minor party to acquiesce, and exhort and enjoin it on the majority, that they carry it towards their brethren of the minor party with all that Christian temper, moderation, and charity, that becomes the followers of Jesus Christ; and that both parties, in all future time, study the things that make for peace.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An account of the state of the fund under the direction of the late Synod of Philadelphia for the widows' fund:

	£	s.	d.
In the hands of William Allen, Esq.	75	0	0
By a bond of Messrs. Bartholemew and Davies,	50	0	0
Henry Vandike and Samuel Thomas,	20	0	0
	£145	0	0
To cash lent to Mr. Coultas, but now paid into Dr. Alison's hands,	55	0	0
Total,	£200	0	0

In the Synod's hands for the widows of ministers who died before this fund was projected, &c.

	£	s.	d.
Brintnel's bond,	300	0	0
Joshua and Simon Thomas's,	30	0	0
Jacob Maag,	25	0	0
Moor and Cuningham,	6	0	0
Total,	£361	0	0

Insolvent bonds.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Houston's,	15	0	0
Mr. Gelston's,	4	0	0
Mr. Stevenson's,	12	0	0
Mr. Thomson's,	24	0	0
Total,	£55	0	0

A charter for a fund for the relief of poor Presbyterian ministers and ministers' widows and children, was brought in and read and thankfully accepted.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, Samuel Finly, Beatty, Blair, and the moderator, be a committee to prepare a plan for the regulation and management of said fund, to meet in Philadelphia on the second Wednesday of June, four to be a quorum; and it is ordered that they send copies to the respective presbyteries, and that they move to the corporation to

appoint proper persons to take in subscriptions, that the matter may not be delayed a whole year longer.

The addresses to the Governor and Assembly were brought in and approved.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Rodgers, Beatty, and the moderator, present them to the Governor and Assembly respectively.

Application was made to the Synod by Messrs. Duffield and Elder, for advice both to Mr. Steel's and Mr. Duffield's congregations, whether they shall erect two meeting-houses in Carlisle or one only.

The Synod are grieved that there should be a spirit of animosity still subsisting amongst the people, and would be far from encouraging any steps that would tend to perpetuate a divided state; and, therefore, do warmly recommend it to the people of both congregations to fall upon healing measures, and lay a plan for the erection of one house only, and enjoin it upon Messrs. Steel and Duffield to unite their counsel and use their influence to bring about a cordial agreement.

William Elliot, who by some means lost his eye sight while in the military service, applied to the Synod for their charity. It is recommended to the members to propose a collection for him in their congregations, and send what shall be got to Dr. Alison.

Mr. Kinkead came and gave in a paper to the Synod, as he says, for his own exoneration, in order to his continuing a member. The Synod, upon considering his case, conclude that as they have never excluded him, they will consider and deal with him as a member. This minute being read to Mr. Kinkead, he refuses membership notwithstanding.

Ordered, That Messrs. Smith, Green, Norton, Cummins, Kennedy, and Beatty, be a committee to converse with Mr. Harker, and labour to convince him of his mistakes, to meet at Mr Pearson's at Mendam, the second Wednesday of August, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at ten o'clock, A. M. in the First Presbyterian Church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

1760.

Philadelphia, May 21*st*, 1760.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment at the First Presbyterian church in Philadelphia. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers present: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, John Ewing, Benjamin Chesnutt, Henry Martin, Samuel Davies, Samuel Kennedy, John Moffat, Samuel Finly, John Rodgers, Alexander McDowel, Robert Smith, John Miller, James Finly, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, William Ramsay, John Griffiths, Charles McKnight, Alexander McWhorter, John Brainerd, Charles Tennent, John Blair, Joseph Tate, Robert McMordie, Moses Tuttle, Francis Alison, D. D. Daniel Lawrence, James Latta, William Tennent, Samuel Harker, Abner Brush, Abraham Kettletas, Daniel Thane, John Elder, John Rowan, George Duffield, William Kirkpatrick.

Elders: Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Hugh Hamilton, Samuel Allen, Thomas Tobin, Robert Spear, Robert Evans, John Wallace, Jonathan Lawrence, Robert Givens, John Sympson, John Hannah, Thomas Ewing, Thomas Shields, William McCrea, Robert Wallace, Robert McCoomb.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Robert Cross, Adam Boyd, Andrew Sterling, Charles Beatty, William McKennan, John Pearson, Nehemiah Greenman, Andrew Bay, Timothy Jones, Caleb Smith, Chancey Graham, Jacob Green, Benjamin Hait, Aaron Richards, Nathaniel Whitaker, John Smith, John Maltby, Job Pruden, Benjamin Talmage, James Brown, Silas Leonard, John

Wright, John Craig, Hugh Henry, Henry Patillo, John Hogg, Charles Tennent, Hector Alison, Matthew Wilson, David Bostwick, Enos Airs, Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, David Cowel, Jonathan Elmore, John Darby, James McCrea, Thomas Lewis, Abner Reave, Samuel Bewel, Eliphalet Ball, John Todd, Alexander Miller, Alexander Craighead, William Richardson, Hugh McCadden, Richard Zanchy, Samuel Thompson, John Harris, Azariah Horton, Benjamin Woodroff, Hugh Knox, John Guild, Alexander Cummins, Simon Horton, Timothy Allen, Conradus Worts, Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, Moses Baldwin, Samuel Sacket, Samuel Black, John Brown, Robert Henry, John Martin, Alexander Hutchinson, John Steel, Sampson Smith.

Mr. Davies chosen moderator, and Mr. Ewing clerk.

The Synod was opened by a sermon from Am. vii. 5, by Mr. Treat, the last year's moderator.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained the Rev. Mr. James Latta to the work of the ministry, and licensed Mr. Joseph Montgomery. The New York Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. Azel Roe. The New Castle Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. John Strain. And the New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. John Hannah, John Clark, John Carmicle, and William Mills, and that they have ordained the Rev. Messrs. Alexander McWhorter and William Kirkpatrick since our last.

Ordered, That the moderator, Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Samuel Finly, Richard Treat, be appointed a committee to prepare some rules for the expediting and regulating the transactions of the Synod, to be laid before the Synod to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 22d, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The reasons for the absence of Messrs. Boyd, Pierson, Caleb Smith, Timothy Jones, Simon Horton, David Bostwick, Benjamin Woodroff, John Darby, Nathaniel Whitaker, Timothy Allen, Sampson Smith, Nehemiah Greenman, being made known to the Synod, were sustained.

The reasons of the absence of the Rev. Messrs. Davies, Moffat, Griffith, William Tennent, Kennedy, Tuttle, Samuel Finly, Robert Smith, Roan, Elder, McMordy, Tate, McDowel, at our last, are sustained.

The Rev. Mr. George Gillespie has been removed by death since our last.

The Synod earnestly recommend to all the Presbyteries, that they notify all absent members more carefully to attend Synodical conventions, and not to expect to be excused without sufficient reasons; and that those Presbyteries who are all absent, be notified by the moderator of the next adjacent Presbytery.

The regulations proposed to be drawn up by the committee last *sederunt*, were brought in and read, and are ordered to lay on the table for more mature consideration until to-morrow.

Ordered, That Messrs. Treat, Rodgers, Miller, Kettletas, Kennedy, Elder, and Blair, be a committee of overtures to meet to-morrow at six o'clock, A. M. at the First Presbyterian meeting-house.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the committee appointed last year to dispose of the interest of the money in the treasury of the College of New Jersey, appointed to the

education of poor and pious youth, give an account of their disposal of said money to the Synod, and also a committee to be appointed the ensuing year at their next meeting. And that Messrs. William Tennent, Treat, Cowel, Guild, McKnight, and Hait, and the moderator, be a committee for the said purpose the following year, to meet the last Wednesday in July at Princeton, who are to give an account of their proceedings to the Synod at their next meeting.

Mr. McWhorter's reasons for not going to Virginia, according to appointment of the Synod last year, were sustained. Messrs. Kirkpatrick's and Latta's reasons for not being at Hanover in Virginia, at the appointed time, were also sustained.

A supplication for supplies, and for the Rev. Mr. Duffield in particular, from Hanover congregation in Virginia, was brought in and read, and the Synod having considered the affair, voted, that the Rev. Mr. Duffield pay said people a visit about the beginning of September, and continue there five weeks at least, and as much longer as he judges expedient. Ordered, that Mr. Mills be at Hanover on the second Sabbath of October, and continue to supply them until the first of April, or in the neighbouring congregations as the Presbytery of Hanover shall think fit.

Mr. Brainerd has received the greater part of the interest of the Indian fund, according to the vote of the Synod.

It is known to many in the bounds of this Synod, that some ministers, moved with an holy zeal to promote the kingdom of Christ among the Indian tribes, applied to the society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge, and obtained a grant of a certain sum of money yearly, to support two missionaries to promote the conversion of the savage nations; they employed Mr. David Brainerd, whose praise is in the churches of Christ, and whose endeavours were blessed with remarkable success in this great work of bringing the Indians to the knowledge of Christ.

It pleased God soon to remove him from his useful labour on earth to the joys of his heavenly kingdom; as the name of Brainerd was dear to these poor tribes, his brother was chosen to succeed him in the mission, in which station he continued for seven or eight years, but as the prospect of a troublesome war made the mission dangerous and disagreeable, the commissioners who employed him dismissed him from his care of the Indians, and he was employed to preach the gospel at Newark.

At an Indian treaty, the province of New Jersey bought all the small tracts of land that the Indians claimed in different parts of the government, and that they might still encourage the native inhabitants to reside among them in their own country, they bought and bestowed on the remnant of these people about four thousand acres of land, which they gladly accepted; and as many of them were converted to Christianity, they earnestly requested that Mr. Brainerd might be granted to them again as a gospel minister.

The annuity which the society in Scotland had allowed to the missionary, was stopped upon Mr. Brainerd's dismission, though there was and is hope of procuring it again, Mr. Brainerd was requested by the governor and commissioners of Jersey to undertake the Indian mission. He applied to the Synod for advice, and though he had a very comfortable settlement at Newark, yet the Synod, through an earnest desire to promote the kingdom of Christ among these poor Indians, advised him to give up these temporal advantages, and settle as a missionary among those poor Indians, with which advice he readily and generously complied. But as there is no provision yet made to support him, and to answer many and various expenses in preaching to, and settling schools among these people, the Synod think themselves obliged to use all lawful endeavours to support said mission, and have now at their Synodical

meeting agreed to contribute themselves, and to make application to the congregations in the bounds of this Synod, for a general collection to promote this pious and good design; and do order that a collection for this purpose be made in every congregation under the care of this Synod, and that the respective collections be sent by the moderators of the Presbyteries before the beginning of September, to Mr. Jonathan Sergeant near Princeton, who is to receive it and pay it to the correspondents of the Indian mission to be by them used for this purpose.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be taken by the moderators of such Presbyteries as are present, and sent to such as are absent.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That the interest arising from the Indian fund, in the hands of the trustees of the College of New Jersey, for this current year, be allowed to Mr. Brainerd.

Ordered, That Mr. President Davies write, as soon as he can conveniently, to the society for managing the Indian mission in Virginia, to let them know the difficult state of Indian affairs in New Jersey, and to request their interest and concurrence to obtain some relief for our Indian mission and schools from the New England company in London. And that the board of correspondents in New Jersey, be requested by said Mr. President Davies, to give a narrative of the state of that mission, and to request the assistance of the New England society for its support; unless a fund or pension sufficient to support that mission, be obtained from the Scotch society before the last Wednesday of next September.

Mr. McKnight was hindered from visiting the Indians, as the last Synod appointed, by sickness. Mr. Latta's reasons for not visiting the Indians are sustained. Mr. Kettletas supplied Newark as appointed. Mr. Brush preached in college as appointed.

The committee appointed to meet at Chesnut Level, to hear and judge of the complaint made by Jannet Smith, report, that they met and determined that affair according to order.

Agreed, that Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, Treat, Ewing, John Miller, Wilson, Samuel Finly, Blair, Boyd, Teat, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Caleb Smith, John Guild, Azariah Horton, Brown, Spencer, and the moderator, with the elders, Messrs. John Wallace, Gunning Bedford, Thomas Ewing, Hugh Hamilton, Robert Evans, John Sympson, be a commission for the ensuing year, and that any eight and the moderator be a quorum.

The case of conscience concerning a man having married his half brother's widow, was brought under consideration, and several members offered their thoughts on it; but the further consideration was deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. William McCrea obtained leave to go home.

The case of the marriage resumed. After some further converse on this point, agreed, that Messrs. Samuel Finley, James Finley, Blair, Miller, Kettletas, and Gilbert Tennent, be a committee to bring in a sum of what they can find in Scripture and the English law on that point, against Monday afternoon; and also on a second case from Donegall Presbytery, where a brother's and sister's

relicts married together; and on a third case of a man's marrying two sisters, one after the other's death.

Agreed, that Messrs. Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, and Treat, be a committee to manage the affair respecting the German fund, and that Dr. Alison call the committee together as often as he sees occasion, and that some part, as they can afford, be allowed Mr. Duffield for his school in the year past. Mr Rodgers had leave to go home.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, at nine o'clock, met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. John Sympson, Jonathan Lawrence, and Thomas Ewing, have leave, for weighty reasons, to go home.

The committee for correspondence deferred. The affair of the fund deferred. The committee for the widows' fund deferred.

Mr. Harker's affair was taken into consideration. The committee appointed last year to converse with him brought in the following report: That they met at the Rev. Mr. John Pierson's, *ubi post preces sederunt*, ministers, Messrs. John Pierson, Caleb Smith, Jacob Green, Timothy Jones, Azariah Horton, Samuel Kennedy, and Jonathan Elmore, correspondent.

Ministers absent: Messrs. Alexander Cummins, Charles Beatty.

Mr. Pierson chosen moderator, and Mr. Kennedy clerk.

Mr. Samuel Harker's paper, containing his principles, together with some arguments to support them, was read and maturely deliberated upon; and the committee being in doubt what Mr. Harker's real sentiments were, as they appeared not to be clearly expressed in said paper, proceeded to query with him largely on the several heads, and were well pleased to find, on inquiry, that Mr. Harker's sentiments, in some points which on first view of his paper appeared erroneous, were in substance (though far from being happily and cautiously expressed) agreeable to the opinion of the generality of our orthodox divines, particularly as to all men's being in the covenant, and the regenerate's not being probationers for heaven; as Mr. Harker means, by the former, no more than this, viz. that the covenant respects the whole human race, in the proposals thereof; and by the latter, only designs, that every regenerate person has a sure and unfailing title to heaven, by virtue of their being interested in the merits of Christ. But the committee were sorry to find, that in two branches of doctrine Mr. Harker appears really to have fallen into an error, particularly in holding, that according to the tenor of the covenant of grace, God has bound himself, by promise, to bestow saving blessings upon the faith and endeavours of unregenerate men; and that God has predestinated persons to salvation, upon a foresight of their faith and good works, or compliance with the terms of the covenant. On both which heads, the committee laboured to convince Mr. Harker of his mistake, but without being so happy as to succeed in their endeavours, at least from what then appeared. Finally, they recommended to Mr. Harker greater caution in his phraseology, and that where he could with a safe conscience, he would aim at the common forms of sound words, without affecting to deviate from the usual modes of expression among orthodox divines. Concluded with prayer.

As the Synod apprehend they had some success, but find him mistaken in the two above propositions, still it is thought expedient to try yet whether further converse may convince him; the Synod agree that he meet with Messrs. Samuel and James Finely, Blair, Robert and Sampson Smith, at Nottingham,

the second Tuesday of November next. And in his return meet with Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Ewing, and Dr. Alison, in this city, to converse on these points.

Mr. Harker got leave to go home.

Adjourned till ten o'clock on Monday, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Dr. Alison, Lawrence, Chesnut, Martin, William Tennent, Roan, Duffield.)

The committee of correspondents deferred till afternoon.

The affair of the Synod's Fund deferred till afternoon.

The committee for the Widows' Fund deferred.

The overtures of regulations, that were accidentally passed over in their proper place, are further deferred.

A supplication from Lancaster and Leacock being considered by the Synod, they appoint Mr. Montgomery to supply Lancaster the first Sabbath of June, and at Leacock the third.

That Mr. Carmichael supply two Sabbaths in New Castle Presbytery; the next two in Lewistown Presbytery; the next four in New Castle Presbytery; and the next six in Donegall Presbytery; and the remainder of his time, till the fourth Wednesday of September, in New Castle Presbytery.

Agreed with Mr. Latta's own consent, that he be removed from Philadelphia and joined to Donegall Presbytery.

A very pressing application being made by the English Presbyterian gentlemen of Albany for supplies, the Synod appointed Mr. Hector Alison to supply there till the second Sabbath of July, if it suits his conveniency.

The Synod appoint Mr. Kettletas to visit them against the fourth Sabbath of July next, and supply them four Sabbaths; and that Mr. William Tennent supply them afterwards, as he can conveniently; and that Mr. Woodroff supply Mr. Kettletas's congregation the last Sabbath of July, Mr. Richards the first Sabbath of August, Mr. M'Whorter the second, and Mr. Smith the third Sabbath.

The supplication from Windham, in New Hampshire, deferred till afternoon.

'Tis allowed that Messrs. Alexander McDowel and Hector Alison go as chaplains to the Pennsylvania forces, and that Mr. Kirkpatrick go with the New Jersey forces, the ensuing campaign. The Synod recommend that Mr. Kirkpatrick pay a visit to the people of Windham on his return, and that Dr. Alison and Mr. Ewing write a recommendatory letter to the people.

The case of conscience about the marriage deferred.

Mr. Robert Evans obtained leave to go nome.

Adjourned till half after three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At half after three o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee of correspondence, appointed last Synod, report that they have not settled any plan for it, and the appointment of another committee is deferred till next year.

Ordered, that the money in Dr. Alison's hands belonging to the Widows' Fund be delivered to the treasurer of the corporation for said fund.

Ordered, that Messrs. Samuel Finley, Tate, Kettletas, McDowel, and Wallace, be a committee to settle the affair of the Synod's Fund with Dr. Alison, and bring in the report to the Synod to-morrow morning.

Names of persons who contributed this year to the Synod's Fund.

Mr. James Finly brought in 14*s*. Mr. Joseph Tate brought in £2 2*s*. 6*d*.

The reading the minutes of our last *sederunt*, from the affair of the new regulations forward, is deferred until to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee for settling the Synod's Fund, report that they have settled the accounts with Dr. Alison, which was approved as appears by his books.

The affair of regulations resumed and committed to Messrs. McDowel, Brainerd, Tate, and Blair, to draw up a minute concerning this affair to be offered to the consideration of the Synod to-morrow.

The case of conscience resumed, and the committee appointed to examine what the English and Levitical laws have determined in this affair, brought in their report.

Voted, that the consideration of the above affair be deferred until next Synod, and that it be recommended to the several members to examine the affair more thoroughly before that time, and give their sentiments on it.

The second and third cases of conscience deferred till afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Kirkpatrick has got leave to go home.

The committee for the Widows' Fund further deferred.

As to the second case of conscience the Synod judge, that such a marriage, however inexpedient it be, yet as we cannot find it prohibited by the Levitical law, it is not to be condemned as incestuous.

The third case of conscience was considered; and though the majority of the Synod think that the marriage is incestuous, and contrary to the laws of God and the land, and agree that it is sinful and of dangerous tendency, yet inasmuch as some learned men are not so clear in this point, it is agreed to resume the consideration hereof next year.

An overture was brought in, that as a Professor of Divinity, to instruct youths for the sacred ministry, is much wanted, and highly necessary, the Synod would try to fall upon some measures to obtain one. And the Synod sensible of the need and importance of this, earnestly recommend the consideration of it to every Presbytery, that they may consult together how this may be accomplished, and endeavour to make the people under their care sensible of the importance of it; also, that they may be prepared and disposed to contribute to so good a design. And ordered, that a copy of this be transmitted by the clerk to the moderators of New Castle and New Brunswick Presbyteries, that they may transmit it to the other Presbyteries.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee for the Widows' Fund brought in their report, which may be seen in the Corporation Book.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison apply to the Corporation for a copy of their plan to be transmitted to each Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Lawrence supply Mr. Beatty's pulpit the first and second

Sabbaths of June; Mr. Treat the third; Mr. Ramsey the fourth and fifth; Mr. Clark the first and third of July; Mr. Treat the second; Mr. McKnight the fourth and the first of August; Mr. Treat the second; Mr. Brainerd the third and fourth; Dr. Alison the fifth; Mr. Treat the first of September; Dr. Alison the second; Mr. Blair the third; Mr. Samuel Finly the fourth; Mr. Treat the first of October; Mr. Hunter the second; Mr. Chesnut the third; Mr. James Finly the fourth; Mr. Treat the first of November; Mr. Montgomery the second; Mr. McWhorter the third; and Mr. Rodgers the fourth and fifth.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute upon the affair of regulations brought in the following, which was approved:

The Synod judge, that, agreeably to the usage of other judicatures of our denomination, it is expedient, especially for such younger members, as shall be introduced into this body from year to year, to be acquainted with the order in which they are to conduct themselves and observe the following practice:

Every year, after the Synod is met and a new moderator chosen, the former moderator, before he leave the chair, shall remind his successor, that agreeably to the character he is now chosen to sustain, he is not to leave his chair, nor speak in any affair debated, unless allowed by the Synod, but is only to be a public person to whom all shall speak, and the common mouth of the Synod; and is to see that becoming order be maintained by all the members, according to the following common rules, which they are all agreed to observe:

That no member speak to any affair until he respectfully ask and obtain leave of the moderator; that all speeches be addressed to the moderator; and when a member has done speaking he shall sit down, or otherwise signify that he has done.

No member shall multiply speeches on the same point, unless some new matter is started, or he has been misunderstood, or has forgot something he intended to say; and when any seem likely to waste time by speaking often, the moderator may confine each to speak once only in the order of the roll.

That no member interrupt another while he is speaking, or offer any different matter after a motion is made, till it be judged of; nor shall he speak to any matter after the Synod have judged it ripe for a vote, unless he obtain leave of the Synod by the moderator.

That in all debates the members shall treat each other with becoming respect and decency.

That none shall withdraw, or be absent, in the time of a session without the leave of the Synod obtained by the moderator.

That while the Synod is transacting business there shall be no unseasonable private whispering, or conversation on other affairs, but all shall attend with gravity and decency.

If any member act indecently and disorderly, contrary to these rules, the moderator shall reprove, or otherwise censure him as the Synod shall judge proper, and if any member shall think himself denied of any just right, or unjustly blamed by the moderator, he shall not speak disrespectfully to him, but modestly require the Synod's judgment in the case.

After the former moderator has recommended these things to the care of his successor, he shall address the members of the Synod expressing his earnest desire and hope, that they will give all due respect and encouragement to their moderator, in his duty, observe these rules themselves, and in all things maintain the dignity, gravity, and decency, the mutual love and confidence that become their character. And the Synod recommend the observation of such rules to all the Presbyteries.

The Synod seriously considering the dangerous situation of our public affairs, and the melancholy state of religion, agree that the nineteenth day of

next June be set apart as a day of public fasting and prayer in all the congregations under the care of this Synod, where the government under which they live have not this year already appointed a public fast; that all may humble themselves before Almighty God, to deprecate his wrath, and to pray for the Divine blessing on his majesty's counsels and arms, and the revival of true piety and religion among us.

Five queries were brought in, which are as follows:

First query. How many ministers are necessary to request the moderator of the commission of the Synod, or of any of our Presbyteries, to oblige the moderator to call any of these judicatures to do occasional business?

Second query. Whether, by our constitution, a new moderator ought not to be chosen as oft as one of our judicatures meet, excepting the commission of the Synod, which is a representative of the body?

Third query. Whether our students, bred in our colleges, have not a right to apply to any of our Presbyteries for improvement for the sacred work of the ministry? and whether they ought not to be received upon sufficient recommendations?

Fourth query. Whether any minister, or probationer, ordained or licensed in Scotland, England, Ireland, Connecticut, or in any of the Reformed Churches, ought not to be admitted as a gospel minister, or probationer, if he produce sufficient certificates that he was orderly ordained or licensed, and has behaved according to his character, provided he adopts our Confession, and promises subjection in the Lord?

Fifth query. Whether it is regular for our students of divinity, who intend to return and officiate in the bounds of the Synod, to go into New England, or elsewhere, in order to be licensed?

The further consideration of these queries is referred till afternoon.

Mr. Robert Smith got leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the five queries resumed.

In answer to the first query, the Synod judge, that meetings of judicatures, *pro re natâ*, can only be necessary on account of important occurrences unknown at their last meeting, and which cannot be safely deferred till their stated meeting, such as scandal raised on a minister's character, tending to destroy his usefulness, and bring reproach on religion; or feuds in a congregation threatening its dissolution; or some dangerous error, or heresy broached; but not for matters judicially deferred by the judicature, except some unforeseen circumstance occurs, which makes it appear that some principal things on which the judgment depends may then be had, and cannot be obtained if it is deferred till their stated meeting; nor, for any matters that ordinarily come in at their stated meetings. And when such occasional meetings appear necessary to the moderator himself, it is proper to call the judicature together, or upon the application of any two members judging it necessary, provided always, that seasonable notice be given to all the members of the occasion, time, and place of meeting, and that it be appointed at such a season as may render the attendance of the members practicable. But the advice of four or five is judged necessary to call the commission of the Synod.

Voted, That Mr. Hugh Williamson, a probationer in the ministry, who was licensed in Connecticut, should be received under the care of the Synod.

The consideration of the remaining queries deferred till next year.

An address from the clergy of the Church of England belonging to this city was brought in and read; wherein they complain that some members of this Synod have intermeddled in their church affairs to their disliking, and query, whether the paper which they say was signed by the moderator and some other members, was signed as a synodical act.

The Synod assure these Reverend Gentlemen that they never signed it as a synodical body, nor heard the paper read in Synod, nor was it as much as made known to many of the members of this body. As we have not seen the paper we cannot judge how far they have concerned themselves in the affairs of the Church of England. We desire to intermeddle with no affairs that do not belong to us, but as a body can neither prevent the private correspondence of our members, nor oblige them to produce their letters; but we presume, if application should be made to the persons who have written, a sight of the paper may be obtained. And we heartily desire that the same good understanding which has hitherto happily subsisted between us and the Reverend Gentlemen of the Church of England, may still continue.

Ordered, That the clerk give a copy of this minute if desired.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday in May next, to meet in Philadelphia, at the second Presbyterian meeting-house, at three o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1761.

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1761.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met, according to adjournment, at the Second Presbyterian Church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Cross, Dr. Alison, Andrew Hunter, Daniel Lawrence, John Simonton, Gilbert Tennent, Benjamin Chesnut, William Ramsey, James Latta, Richard Treat, Henry Martin, John Ewing, John Beard.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Adam Boyd, William McKennan, Daniel Thane, Andrew Sterling, Samuel Finly, James Finly, Alexander McDowell, John Strain, John Blair, John Rodgers, Hector Alison, John Carmichael.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Steel, George Duffield, Robert Smith, Sampson Smith, John Roan, Joseph Tate, Robert McMurdie.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: Messrs. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Hugh Henry, John Harris.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, Samuel Harker, Benjamin Hait, James Caldwell, James McCrea, Israel Read, William Kirkpatrick, John Clark, Charles McKnight, Elihu Spencer, James Hunt.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Azariah Horton, Caleb Smith, Simon Horton, Timothy Jones, Benjamin Woodroff, Jonathan Elmore, David Bostwick.

Of Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, Ministers. Elders: John Williams, Thomas Francis, James Wilden, David Flemming, Francis Gardner, Daniel William, Samuel Stevens, Daniel Dickinson, Hugh McIlroy, Joshua Thomas, Anthony Tate, James Evans, William Wallace, Moses Irwin, Jared Graham, John King, Jacob Ford, Andrew Gregg, David Caldwell, Thomas Ogden, Walter Stewart, James Boyd, Josiah Scott, William Walker, Gilbert Hendrickson, Benjamin Bonnel, David Davies.

Absent members of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Charles Beatty and Nehemiah Greenman.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Alexander Hutchinson, Charles Tennent, and Andrew Bay.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Thompson, John Elder, and John Hogg.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: Mr. Moses Tuttle.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Kennedy, Job Prudden, John Hannah, Conradus Worts, John Guild.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, John Maltby, John Moffat, John Derby, Timothy Allen, John Brainerd, Hugh Knox, Chauncy Graham, Aaron Richards, Nathaniel Whitaker, Jacob Green, Enos Ayres, Silas Leonard, Abraham Kettletas, Abner Brush.

Of Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, Samuel Buel, James Brown, Benjamin Talmadge, Moses Balden, Abner Reeves, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Ezra Reeves, Thomas Lewis

Of Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. Alexander Craighead, Robert Henry, John Wright, John Craig, John Brown, Henry Patillo, Alexander Miller, Samuel Black, Hugh McCadden.

The Synod was opened by a sermon on 2 Tim. ii. 2, by Mr. Treat.

Mr. Elihu Spencer chosen moderator, and Mr. John Rodgers clerk.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

21st May, at nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That a letter be wrote to Mr. Silas Leonard, to know his reasons for not attending our Synod, and to inform him, that if he does not either attend, or give us sufficient reasons for his absence, his name shall be left out of our book.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained to the sacred work of the ministry, since our last meeting, Mr. John Simonton and Mr. John Beard.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have also ordained to the same sacred work, Mr. John Strain and Mr. John Carmichael.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. James Hunt, Mr. James Caldwell, Mr. John Hannah, and Mr. John Clark, and that they have licensed Mr. Amos Thompson, Mr. Samuel Parkhurst and Mr. Joseph Treat.

Hanover Presbytery report that they have licensed Mr. James Waddel.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick further report that it has pleased God to remove by death, since our last, the Rev. Mr. President Davies and the Rev. Mr. David Cowell.

New York Presbytery informs us, that the Rev. Mr. Alexander Cumming is removed to Boston. And the Presbytery of Hanover report, that Mr. William Richardson is joined to the Presbytery of South Carolina.

Ordered, That Messrs. Blair, Ramsay, Sampson Smith, Henry, Simon Horton, William Tennent, and Richard Zanchy, be a committee of overtures to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, at the second Presbyterian church, and as often as there may be occasion.

Ordered, That Messrs. William Tennent, Treat, Guild, Ewing, McKnight, Caleb Smith, Bostwick, and Hait, be a committee to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the college of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth for this year, and that they meet at Princeton on the last Wednesday of July for this purpose; and that they prepare a book in which the accounts of said disposal be regularly inserted, and that this or an attested copy thereof, be laid before the Synod at our next meeting.

The reasons for Mr. Duffield's not going to Hanover, are sustained; as also Mr. Mills's.

Upon inquiry who had collected for the Indian mission, as ordered last year, it is found the order was not fulfilled by Messrs. Chesnut, Martin, Gilbert Tennent, Steel, Sampson Smith, Duffield, Roan, McMurdie, Harris, McCrea, Harker, Simon Horton, Zanchy, and Todd. Ordered, that these gentlemen collect for this purpose as soon as possible. And that the several Presbyteries take due care that collections for this end be made by their absent members who have not complied; that vacant congregations be warmly applied to by their respective Presbyteries on this head; and that their several sums be sent to Mr. Sergeant or Mr. Ewing as soon as convenient, and, if possible, before the next commencement of the College of New Jersey.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the Indian mission, and the inquiry whether the interest of the Indian fund, in the hands of the trustees of the College of New Jersey was paid to Mr. Brainerd, deferred.

Ordered, That Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Dr. Alison, Ewing, John Miller, Wilson, Samuel Finly, Blair, Boyd, Tate, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Caleb Smith, Guild, Azariah Horton, Brown, Rodgers, and the moderator, with the elders, Messrs. David Caldwell, John Williams, Joshua Thomas, James Evans, and David Flemming, be the commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, and that eight of them, and the moderator, be a quorum.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cross and Gilbert Tennent, with Dr. Alison, be a committee to confer with the trustees of the German fund, about the annuity allowed out of said fund.

The ministers belonging to the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, their widows and children, have leave to meet to-morrow at five o'clock, with the other members of that body.

Mr. Harker's case came to be considered. He declared to the Synod, that he had prepared his sentiments for the press, yet if the Synod would take the trouble to read his performance, and convince him that he is wrong, he would amend what is so, otherwise he would think himself obliged to print without delay. The Synod have not sufficient time to read and dispute every point in his performance, which they may judge erroneous or suspicious. Several members of this body have heard him discourse on these subjects, and have read some parts of his performance, who think he labours under several mistakes; but as the whole Synod cannot form a judgment upon his sentiments from the report of a few who may understand them, they only at present declare to the world, that as far as they have been acquainted with his opinions, they do not approve of some of them.

The Synod further agree, that if Mr. Harker, notwithstanding this disapprobation, shall proceed to print, every member may bring in their remarks upon his book to the next Synod in order to their further notice, and that Dr. Alison, Messrs. Treat, Ewing, Samuel Finly, Steel, and McDowell, or any three of them be in particular a committee for this purpose.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the Indian mission further deferred. The supplies appointed to Albany, fulfilled.

Messrs. Robert Cross, Gilbert Tennent, Dr. Alison, McDowell, Treat,

Samuel Finly, and Rodgers, are appointed a committee of correspondence for the ensuing year.

Dr. Alison represented, that there was some money in his hands belonging to the fund of the late Synod of Philadelphia, which he thought himself unqualified to lay out for the use of this body in a legal manner, and that other sums due to the Synod were in danger of being lost, as they were not a body corporate invested with a power to sue and be sued; and he requested that this Synod would be pleased to put this fund on a surer footing if possible.

The Synod agree, that all money belonging to that fund be put into the hands of the corporation, for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, their widows and children, to be managed by them in trust, for the Synod, after the same manner that certain sums belonging to this body, appropriated to the education of poor and pious youths, are put into the hands of the trustees of the college of New Jersey, to be managed in trust for us; and that said sums be disposed of according to an agreement made between the members of the late Synod of Philadelphia, until the widows, who were under that Synod's care at the union of the two Synods die, or be otherwise provided for.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison, with Messrs. William Tennent and Samuel Finly, wait on the above corporation, and request them to accept this trust; and that these gentlemen, with Messrs. Treat and Ewing, or any three of them, act and do every thing relative to this affair.

Ordered, That Messrs. McDowell, Steel, Blair, Ewing, and Rodgers, be a committee to settle the affairs of the Synod's fund with Dr. Alison, and make such distributions of its interest as they may think necessary for the past year; and that they bring in their report to the Synod on Monday morning.

The first and third cases of conscience came to be considered. Dr. Alison, Messrs. McDowell, Samuel Finly, Blair, Bostwick, Caleb Smith, Duffield, Wilson, and Steel, are appointed a committee to prepare a minute on this subject, and bring it in as soon as possible.

The affair of a professor of divinity came to be considered. And the Synod agree to promote this good purpose; but as several useful designs are at present under consideration, which may prevent our raising a sufficient fund for this end at this time, it is deferred till a more convenient season.

But the Synod being deeply sensible, that the church suffers greatly for want of an opportunity to instruct students in the knowledge of divinity, it is hereby agreed, that every student after he has been admitted to his first degree in the college, shall read carefully and closely on this subject, at least one year, under the care of some minister of an approved character for his skill in theology; and under his direction shall discuss difficult points in divinity, study the sacred Scriptures, form sermons, lectures, and such other useful exercises as he may be directed to in the course of his studies.

And it is enjoined likewise, that every preacher, for the first year after his licensure, shall show all his sermons to some minister in our Presbyteries, on whose friendship and candour he depends, written fairly, to have them corrected and amended. And as they are but young preachers, we are persuaded that no better method can be taken in present circumstances to improve them in Christian knowledge and render them eminently useful in their stations. It is also enjoined that they preach as often as they can before stated ministers, that they may correct their gesture, pronunciation, delivery, and the like. And it is further enjoined that all our ministers

and probationers forbear reading their sermons from the pulpit if they can conveniently.

The supplies for Mr. Beatty's congregation deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The reasons of Mr. Brainerd's absence being made known to the Synod, they are sustained.

The consideration of the Indian mission further deferred.

The Synod seriously considering the situation of our public affairs, and the melancholy state of religion, agree that the second Thursday of June be set apart as a day of public fasting and prayer, in all the congregations under the care of this Synod, where the government under which they live has not, or shall not before that time, appoint another day for this purpose; that all may humble themselves before Almighty God, to deprecate his just displeasure, and pray for the blessing of heaven on his majesty's person, counsels, and arms; and for the revival of true piety, and decaying religion among us.

In answer to the second question in our last year's minutes, respecting the choice of a new moderator, it is agreed, that no moderator has a right to preside in any of our Presbyteries but by virtue of the election of the members then met; but the presbyters may elect the same person for their moderator from time to time, if they think proper.

The answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries deferred.

An overture was brought in, to the following purpose, viz. As holiness is a qualification requisite in a gospel minister, query, whether it be the duty of a Presbytery, and possible for them, to make candidates give a narration of their personal exercises, and upon this form a judgment of their real spiritual state towards God, as the ground of admitting or rejecting them? This deferred to further consideration.

Adjourned till six o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, six o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of the Indian mission came to be considered. It is agreed that Messrs. William Tennent, Bostwick, Caleb Smith, McKnight, Azariah Horton, Simon Horton, McDowell, Kirkpatrick, and the moderator, be a committee to consider this matter, and bring in their report on Tuesday morning.

The answers to the third, fourth, and fifth queries further deferred.

The overture respecting the examination of candidates, deferred till next *sederunt.*

A supplication was brought in for supplies from Hico, Hawfields, Enno, Coddle Creek, Rocky River, Davidson's Creek, and Lower Settlement, near the Atkin River, all in North Carolina, and particularly for unsettled ministers or candidates.

A supplication from the Presbyterian congregation in Kent, in Maryland, was brought in and read, requesting to be dismissed from Lewestown Presbytery. The Synod judge it is not expedient to grant this request; but order that the Presbytery of New Castle assist their brethren of Lewestown in supplying that congregation as much as possible.

Supplications were brought in from the Presbyteries of Lewestown, Donegall, and Hanover, for candidates, or unsettled ministers, to be sent to them.

Adjourned till ten o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Francis Gardner had leave to go home.

The answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries deferred.

Mr. Caldwell is appointed to supply the southern vacancies, particularly those in Carolina, who now supplicate us; and to go thither as soon as possible: and the clerk is ordered to give him a recommendation.

Mr. Hunt is appointed to supply the vacancies in Virginia, particularly the Northern Neck.

A letter from the convention of the Episcopal Clergy, now in this city, to the Synod, was brought in and read, complaining of a number of our body for interfering in the settlement of Mr. McClenaghan in the city of Philadelphia, together with a letter wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury on this subject.

The consideration of this affair deferred till next *sederunt.*

It was overtured that an address to his majesty should be presented by this Synod. Dr. Alison, Messrs. Bostwick, Caleb Smith, and Rodgers, are appointed a committee to draw up said address, and bring it in to-morrow morning.

The queries relating to marriage were taken under consideration, and after some conversation on them, further deferred till next *sederunt.*

The remainder of our last *sederunt's* minutes deferred till our next.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The complaint of the Episcopal Clergy further deferred.

The affair of the Indian mission resumed.

The Synod taking this matter into serious consideration, judge that though the mission among the Oneida Indians, overtured by Mr. Kirkpatrick, is a matter of great importance, and which we would gladly favour, were it in our power, yet, inasmuch as after all the inquiry we can make, no person can be found to undertake said mission, nor can we in present circumstances raise a sufficient supply for its support, it is agreed that we will to the utmost of our power, support Mr. Brainerd; and for this purpose agree that another collection shall be raised in all our congregations, one hundred and fifty pounds of which shall be allowed to Mr. Brainerd for the ensuing year; and that those who have not yet collected shall be included in this order, besides their fulfilling the order of the last year's Synod on this subject. And Mr. Simon Horton is appointed to notify the Presbytery of Suffolk of this determination.

Mr. Rodgers to supply at Neshaminy the fourth Sabbath instant; Mr. Clark the first of June; Dr. Alison the second of June; Mr. Williamson the third; Mr. Treat the fourth; Mr. Sampson Smith the first of July; Dr. Alison the second; Mr. Williamson the third; Mr. Treat the fourth; Mr. Latta the first of August; Mr. Blair the second; Mr. Ewing the third; Mr. Treat the fourth; Mr. Carmichael the fifth; Mr. Kirkpatrick the first of September; Mr. McDowell the second; Mr. Treat the third; Mr. McKnight the fourth; Mr. Thane the first of October; Mr. Martin the second; Mr. Treat the third; Mr. Chesnut the fourth; and Mr. Latta the first of November.

An appeal from a judgment of the Presbytery of New York, entered by Mr. Kettletas, was read. The minutes of the Presbytery were also read, and their reasons in support of their judgment.

It is agreed that Messrs. William Tennent, Hunter, Treat, Dr. Alison,

Samuel Finly, McKnight, Read, Ewing, Hait, Hector Alison, McDowell, Sampson Smith, Ramsey, and Rodgers, be a committee to determine this matter, to meet at Princeton on the last Tuesday of September, at ten o'clock in the morning; seven to be a quorum, and that the clerk notify Mr. Kettletas of this appointment.

The cases of conscience respecting marriage were resumed, and after the most mature deliberation, the Synod judge as follows: That as the Levitical law, enforced also by the civil laws of the land, is the only rule by which we are to judge of marriages, whoever marry within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden therein, act unlawfully, and have no right to the distinguishing privileges of the churches; and as the marriages in question appear to be within the prohibited degrees, they are to be accounted unlawful, and the persons suspended from special communion while they continue in this relation.

Adjourned till six o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, six o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The complaint of the Episcopal clergy came to be considered, and Messrs. McDowell, Caleb Smith, Samuel Finly, Wilson, Hector Alison, being appointed a committee to draw up a minute on this subject, brought it in, and is as follows:

The Synod would be sorry that any occasion of difference should arise between us and that church, and are of opinion that the brethren mentioned acted without due consideration and improperly in that affair, and particularly for the induction of Mr. McClanaghan to this city; for induction in a legal sense is what we disapprove as contrary to our principles. But the members complained of declare as follows, viz: That by induction they did not mean a forcible obtrusion of a minister upon the people against their will, which their principles as Presbyterians would never allow them to propose; but only the Archbishop's influence in settling the gentleman in question, with the consent of the majority of said congregation, which they understood was the true state of the case. And the Synod further think, these brethren should not lie under the imputation of what is quoted from Mr. McClanaghan's letter, merely upon his doubtful insinuation, nor be put to the unusual task of clearing themselves when there is no evidence against them, and we hope this will satisfy the gentlemen who complain.*

Mr. Brainerd is now come.

A motion was made from Hanover in Virginia, earnestly requesting that Mr. Joseph Treat should be appointed to visit that important congregation as soon as possible, with a view to his settlement among them; the Synod approve the motion, and recommend it to Mr. Treat that he comply therewith, and also to the Presbytery of New Brunswick to appoint him there without delay.

The address to his majesty not yet brought in.

An overture was made by Dr. Alison, that an address should be presented to his honour the governor of this province, in favour of the captives dispersed among the savages to the westward.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

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* See Miller's Life of Rodgers, page 134, *et seq.*

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The overture respecting the examination of candidates about their religious experiences, deferred till our next Synod.

The answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries in our last year's minutes, and so often repeated, also deferred till our next Synod.

The appeal from Donegall Presbytery also deferred.

An overture was brought in by a number of the members of Philadelphia Presbytery, that they might be set off as a distinct Presbytery; this also deferred.

Ordered, That the address to his majesty be finished by the committee, and that Mr. Cross sign it as moderator.

Mr. Ewing is appointed clerk to sign the minute in answer to the Episcopal clergy's letter.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at the first Presbyterian church in this city, at ten o'clock in the morning. Concluded with prayer.

1762.

Philadelphia, May the 19*th*, 1762.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the first Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the Presbytery of Philadelphia: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Francis Alison, Richard Treat, John Ewing, Andrew Hunter, William Ramsey, Daniel Lawrence, John Simonton, John Brainerd, James Latta, John Clark, Benjamin Chesnutt, Henry Martin, John Griffiths.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Alexander McDowell, John Blair, Charles Tennent, James Finly, William McKennan, John Carmichael, John Rodgers, and John Strain.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Azariah Horton, Alexander McWhorter, and James Caldwell.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, Samuel Finley, James McCrea, Charles McKnight, Elihu Spencer, Benjamin Hait, John Hanna.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Smith, George Duffield, and John Beard.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: Messrs. Matthew Wilson, Moses Tuttle, John Miller, Hugh Henry.

Of Hanover Presbytery: Mr. Hugh McCaden.

Elders: Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Francis Brewster, Joseph Ogden, Daniel Stilwell, Joseph Williams, John Grier, Thomas Armstrong, William Barnet, James Robison, John Adams, John Little, David Ramsey, John Matthews, John Hanna, Samuel Allen, Joseph Collins, Theophilus Alexander, William Gallacher, Anthony Tate.

Absent: Of Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Cross, Charles Beatty, and Nehemiah Greenman.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. John Pierson, Timothy Jones, Jacob Green, Caleb Smith, Aaron Richards, Jonathan Elmore, Simon Horton, David Bostwick, Benjamin Woodroff, John Smith, Chancey Graham, Enos Ayres, John Moffat, Abner Brush, John Maltby, Hugh Knox, John Derbey.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Samuel Kennedy, Israel Reed, Samuel Harker, Job Pruden, John Guild.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Alexander Hutchinson, Adam Boyd, Andrew Sterling, Andrew Bay, Hector Alison, Daniel Thane.

Of Donegall Presbytery: Messrs. John Steel, John Elder, Samuel Thomson, John Roan, Joseph Tate, Sampson Smith, Robert McMordie, John Hogg.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: Mr. John Harris.

Of Hanover Presbytery: Messrs. Alexander Craighead, John Todd, John Wright, Richard Zanchy, Robert Henry, John Craig, John Brown, Henry Petillo, Alexander Millar, Samuel Black, James Hunt.

Absent, the whole Presbytery of Suffolk.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Elihu Spencer, the last year's moderator, with a sermon from Acts xx. 28.

Mr. Brainerd was chosen moderator, and Mr. Duffield clerk.

The reason of their absence from last Synod given by Messrs. Charles Tennent, Tuttle, Hanna, and McCaden, were sustained.

As Mr. Silas Leonard has not sent an answer to our letter, the clerk is ordered to write to him as soon as it can be done conveniently.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that since our last they have licensed Mr. Samuel Magaw to preach the gospel; and the Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that they have ordained since our last Messrs. Samuel Packhurst, Joseph Treat, and William Mills, and have licensed Messrs. William Tennent, jun'r. and Enoch Green. New York Presbytery, that they have ordained Mr. Azael Roe. Lewes Presbytery, that they have ordained Mr. Joseph Montgomery, who, with Mr. Samuel Packhurst, took their places as members.

On hearing these reports a question was proposed, whether it be proper to ordain to the ministry, *sine titulo*, except for some particular mission. The consideration of which is deferred till our next *sederunt*.

Appointed as a committee of overtures, Messrs. Treat, Caldwell, McCrea, McDowell, Robert Smith, Wilson, and Hunt, to meet to-morrow evening at the first Presbyterian meeting-house in this city after six o'clock this day, and as often afterwards as may be necessary.

The committee appointed last year to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college, for the education of poor pious young men for the work of the ministry, not having prepared matters to lay before the Synod, are continued a committee for that end the ensuing year, and are strictly enjoined to bring in at our next meeting, an exact account of the disposal of that money since the year 1758, and of the present state of that fund, for which end they are appointed to meet at the time of the examination of candidates for degrees at the New Jersey college this ensuing summer.

Mr. James Hunt is now come.

Appointed as a commission of the Synod for the ensuing year, Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Dr. Alison, Ewing, John Millar, Wilson, President Finley, Blair, Boyd, Tate, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Caleb Smith, Guild, Azariah Horton, Rodgers, Spencer, and the moderator, with the following Elders, Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Francis Brewster, William Barnet, and James Robison, and that eight ministers, with the moderator, be a quorum; and that in case of the moderator's death or absence, the first in the order of the minute, who shall be present, be the moderator.

Adjourned till nine of the clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May the 20th, at nine, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Tate, Roan, and Sampson Smith, and their elders, Messrs. Patrick Campble, George Clingan, William Steel, are now come, and their reasons for absence yesterday, sustained.

Messrs. George Bryan, David Fulton, and Hugh Hamilton, elders, are now come.

The clerk is appointed to write to the Presbytery of Suffolk, to know why they were absent these three years past, and to let them know that the Synod expect that they will at least send commissioners to attend their meeting.

The Synod order their Presbyteries more punctually to bring in their Presbytery books to be examined.

Mr. Samuel Harker and Mr. Kennedy are come, and their reasons for their absence are sustained. Samuel Douglass, an elder, is come with Mr. Kennedy.

Doctor Alison informs the Synod, that he has in his hands some money allowed out of the German fund for supporting a school, of which he will give an account before our Synod breaks up, or at our next Synodical meeting; and further informs us, that the fund for the German emigrants is now exhausted, and it is supposed that any further supplies from that fund can hardly be expected.

As Mr. Harker has, without the approbation of the Synod, printed a book containing his principles, Messrs. Spencer, Rodgers, Blair, Lawrence, McDowell, Wilson, and Robert Smith, are appointed as a committee to examine said book, and to bring in a report before the Synod breaks up.

The appointment of a committee to correspond with the foreign churches, deferred.

The corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, and their widows and children, have agreed to accept the trust of whatever sums of money may be paid to them for the uses agreed to at uniting the Synods, as was requested in our name by Messrs. Dr. Francis Alison, William Tennent, and Samuel Finley.

The committee appointed last year to manage the affair of putting that money into the hands of the corporation, is continued.

Ordered, That Messrs. McDowell, Steel, Blair, Ewing, and Rodgers, be a committee to settle the affairs of the Synod's fund with Dr. Alison, and make distributions of the interest according to the agreement at the union, and bring in a report next Monday morning.

Inquiry being made who had made collections for the Indian mission, it is ordered that all who have made collections, do this day, between the hours of two and three, pay them to Mr. Ewing, and that he bring in an account of what is done.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

May the 20th, at three of the clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Steel is now come with his elder, Jonathan Holmes, his reasons for his absence are sustained.

The Synod seriously considering that our nation is involved in an additional war with Spain, and the melancholy state of religion in our churches, do agree that the third Thursday of June be observed as a day of public fasting and prayer in all the congregations under the care of our Synod, where the government under which they live has not, or shall not before that time appoint another day for that purpose, that all may humble themselves before Almighty God, to deprecate his just displeasure, and pray for the blessing of heaven on his Majesty's person, counsels, and arms, and for the revival of true piety among us.

The supplies for Mr. Beatty's congregation were in general well fulfilled.

Mr. Sampson Smith is appointed to supply Neshaminy the fourth Sabbath

of May, Mr. Steel the fifth; Mr. Carmichael the first Sabbath of June, Mr. Treat the second, Dr. Alison the third, Mr. Hait the fourth; Mr. Martin the first Sabbath of July, Mr. Treat the second, Mr. Latta the third, Mr. Chesnutt the fourth; Mr. Clark the first Sabbath of August, Mr. Treat the second, Mr. Montgomery the third, Dr. Alison, the fourth, Mr. Simonton the fifth; Mr. Treat the first of September, Mr. Enoch Green the second, Mr. McDowell the third, and Mr. Roberts the fourth.

The committee appointed to consider Mr. Kettletas's affair met according to appointment, and report as follows:

"*Princeton, September the* 29*th*, 1761.

"The committee of the Synod met according to appointment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

"Messrs. William Tennent, Richard Treat, Dr. Francis Alison, Samuel Finley, John Rogers, Andrew Hunter, and Israel Read.

"Dr. Alison was chosen Moderator, Mr. Treat clerk.

"The committee took Mr. Kettletas's affair under consideration, and finding that Mr. Kettletas was not present, who sent sufficient reasons to excuse his absence, and earnestly requesting that we would endeavour to remove the difference subsisting between him and the Presbytery of New York: It was unanimously resolved, that the committee could not proceed in a judicial way to determine the cause while one of the parties was absent, therefore it was thought proper to confer with the Presbytery, and to remove all grounds of complaint between him and them if possible. It plainly appeared from what had been acknowledged, both by Mr. Kettletas and the Presbytery, that the Presbytery in dealing with him, intended only to bear testimony in a moderate manner against any thing which deserved censure or admonition, even in a brother, for whom they had a very high esteem, and that in so doing they did not intend to suspend him, or remove him from their fellowship as a brother, but only to admonish him in a friendly manner, and in this the committee do approve their conduct; and inasmuch as Mr. Kettletas desires our assistance to remove all misunderstandings, and that he may live in peace and friendship with the Presbytery, as well as with his other brethren, we have requested the Presbytery to grant this desire, and they have condescended to what we request; and from henceforth do receive him into good standing with them without any further censure. Concluded with prayer."

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

21 *day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Ewing reports, that he has received for the Indian mission since our last, the sum of one hundred and sixteen pounds, two shillings and nine pence, an account of which he has in his book.

Inasmuch as some members of the Synod have made no collection for the Indian mission, and some have collected but once for that purpose, so that the sums collected do not amount to the sum promised by the Synod to Mr. Brainerd, they do strictly enjoin every Presbytery under their care, to excite those members who have yet made no collections, to propose to their congregations either to make two or at least one very liberal collection for this mission before our next meeting, and that care be taken to excite vacant congregations to do the same, and that each Presbytery report when we meet what has been done; and it is agreed, that what remains after paying the missionary, shall be appropriated to the use of a school among the Indians; and that what

money may be collected, be paid to Mr. Ewing, or to Mr. Jonathan Sergeant at Princeton, and that every Presbytery take a copy of this minute, and that to such as are absent the clerk send a copy.

Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Francis Alison, Rogers, President Finley, and Bryan, are appointed to prepare an address to his honour, the governor, and one to the Assembly of this province, requesting them to attempt the recovery of such captives as yet remain among the Indians, and bring in the said address on Monday morning.

The overture respecting the examining candidates about their religious experiences, deferred; to be entered on the first thing in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

With Mr. Kirkpatrick.)

Ordered, To proceed to the consideration of the query respecting the examination of candidates, which was introduced last year, by being so proposed, viz:

Query: Whether it be the duty of a Presbytery, and possible for them, to make candidates give a narrative of their personal exercises, and upon this to form a judgment of their real spiritual state towards God, as the ground of admitting or rejecting them.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, half an hour after eight of the clock.

Concluded with prayer.

22d day, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

A number of the members of the Synod who apprehended themselves particularly concerned in the solution of the question under consideration, informed the Synod that they considered the question as a case of conscience, and as there is some difficulty to understand the query in its present form in our minutes, or how it should be stated in order to proceed; and some members being allowed last *sederunt* to withdraw and attempt to fix what might be allowed the true and proper meaning of the query; those members have brought in two papers, which appear to contain the general sentiments of the Synod respecting the query or the precise thing to be considered, it was decreed that these two papers should be recorded in our minutes.

But as the person or persons proposing a query have a right to propose it in his or their own terms, this motion was over-ruled, and the persons who proposed it gave it in their own words, which are these following:

Query: Whether a candidate's declaration of his own exercises and experiences in religion, given in the way of a narration of these, or in answer to questions put to him concerning them, should be required by a judicature as one appointed, warrantable and useful mean of forming a judgment of his experimental acquaintance with religion, according to which judgment they are to admit or reject him.

Ordered, That every member be called in order to speak what he thinks proper to the question; after which, if occasion requires, it may be debated, and then determined.

Adjourned till Monday next, at 10 A. M. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

On calling the roll, it appears that Messrs. Montgomery, Kirkpatrick, Carmichael, Brewster, Ogden, and Gallachar, are absent, having left town without leave.

The Synod see cause to resolve themselves into a committee of the whole house, to speak in the order of the roll, as agreed before, so as no member speak a second time till the roll be gone through, and that Mr. Brainerd be chairman. Messrs. Steel, Wilson, and Beard, dissent from the above resolves, and desire their dissent and reasons for it to be entered; which is granted, their reasons are (not brought in.)

The committee having heard several gentlemen speak, adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt.

Several gentlemen more spoke their sentiments.

Adjourned till to-morrow, at nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

25th, nine o'clock, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee proceeded to hear several other gentlemen speak on the question in debate.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Several members more offered their sentiments.

Adjourned till to-morrow, nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

26th, 9 ante meridiem. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Anthony Tate, his elder, have been absent the two preceding days, and yet are.

The remaining members offered their sentiments.

Adjourned till three, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is now returned; his absence the two past days excused.

The committee of the whole Synod having diligently attended to the affair under consideration, and every one having had free liberty to speak what appeared to him proper, the Synod resume their former character, and resolve to proceed in the affair to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

27th, nine, A. M. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod apprehending they have, from much conversation on the subject in their late character of a committee, obtained sufficient light to proceed in answering the question under consideration, order, that the sentiments of the Synod be taken by calling the roll in order, to which the affair was stated in the very words of the question, viz: "Whether a candidate's declaration of his

own personal exercises and experiences in religion, given in the way of a narrative of these, or answer to questions put to him concerning them, should be required by a judicature, as one appointed, warrantable and useful mean of forming a judgment of his experimental acquaintance with religion, according to which judgment they are to admit or reject him."

And the state of the question being put, affirm or deny, it was carried in the affirmative, there being thirteen negative and one *non liquet.*

In consequence of some conversation, *pro and con,* respecting the sixth article of the plan of union, two papers were brought in, which are as follows, viz:

1. Proposed, Whether the question now answered in the affirmative be, in the sentiments of the Synod, an agreement in compliance with the most plain sense and meaning of a part of the sixth article of the plan of union, where it is said, "No Presbytery shall license or ordain any candidate to the ministry until he give them a competent satisfaction as to his experimental acquaintance with religion." And, also, agreeable to the order or direction in the Westminster Directory, wherein a Presbytery is directed to inquire touching the grace of God in him, (viz. a person offering himself as a candidate.)

The 2d proposed, Whether said answer in the affirmative was not a direct and open violation of the sixth article of the union, by which both Synods were allowed to follow their own judgment for obtaining competent satisfaction as to a candidate's learning and experimental acquaintance with religion. For it was well known to the Synod of New York, that the Presbyteries belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia did not examine a candidate's experiences in order to have competent satisfaction of his experimental acquaintance with religion, nor do they think this method Scriptural or warrantable; and in all the proposals between the two Synods prior to their union this method was not once mentioned; and the Synod of New York proposed then, and in the seventh article of the union they agreed, that the Presbyteries might continue to act separately, as they had done, by which agreement they confirmed the method used by the Synod in Philadelphia for licensing candidates.

The sentiments of several members of the Synod, how they understood the sixth article of the plan of union, was required on this occasion, and, on calling the roll, it appears that the members of the late Synod of New York that were at making the union, do in general agree in understanding the article so as to enjoin such a declaration of experiences; and the members of the late Synod of Philadelphia, that were at making that union, do in general agree in understanding that article so as not to enjoin such a declaration; and each declare, that they so understood it at the time of making the union.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Some elders are gone home without leave, which the Synod cannot but highly disapprove, and hope that that part of this judicature will not be guilty of doing so for the future.

When the Synod seemed to be greatly perplexed and unable to accommodate this difference about examining the experiences of candidates, an overture was brought in by two members of the Presbytery of New York, in the name and by the appointment of that Presbytery, who, fearing a breach in the Synod on this question, chose to be absent, but sent the following proposals to maintain peace and harmony.*

* [Note by the Clerk.]—The Clerk of the Synod did not deliver this excellent paper

A considerable difference of sentiment still remaining among the members respecting the inquiry into candidates' experimental acquaintance with religion, the Synod appoint Messrs. Treat, President Finley, and Blair, with Messrs. Dr. Alison, Ewing, McDowell, and Azariah Horton, as a committee to attempt an amicable accommodation of the affair, and bring in an overture, or overtures, as soon as they can conveniently.

Adjourned until nine of the clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

28th, nine of the clock, A. M. Met according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod appoint Messrs. Enoch Green, and William Tennent, junior, to go as soon as they conveniently can, so as they defer it no longer than next October, to supply six months under the direction of Hanover Presbytery, and that the Presbytery of New Brunswick proceed to their ordination as soon as they can, provided they be approved on trials, and that on their return they supply four Sabbaths under the direction of the Presbytery of Lewes.

The consideration of a request of a number of the Presbytery of Philadelphia to be set off in a distinct Presbytery, deferred.

The address to his Majesty on his accession to the throne was prepared by the committee.

An appeal from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, by a certain Elizabeth McClelland, was laid before the Synod.

An appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, respecting a certain person offered as an evidence, was brought in by a member of that Presbytery.

In consequence of the above appeal brought in by Elizabeth McClelland, the Synod appointed Messrs. Rogers, Kirkpatrick, Millar, Wilson, Hunter, Blair, McKennan, Simonton, Montgomery, Carmichael, and Latta, as a committee to examine into the grounds of her complaint, as contained in her appeal, to meet at Chesnut Level, the first Wednesday of September, at ten o'clock, A. M., and that they shall have full liberty to consider the case fully, and determine as they shall obtain light; and that seven be a quorum. And it is ordered, that all evidences formerly adduced in that affair be cited to attend, and that a copy of this minute, given or read to them, be a sufficient citation.

Ordered, That the clerk give a copy of this minute, and of the appeal, to each party.

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to Dr. Francis Alison, the transcriber, which he thinks proper to observe, and leave room to insert it if it can be had from the minutes of the Presbytery of New York, but he gives the substance of it from notes on that occasion, and from his own memory. They overture to this purpose:

1. That where different Presbyteries follow different methods of examining the qualifications of candidates for the ministry, they shall continue to do so without censuring or blaming one another.

2. Where the members of the same Presbytery differ in their sentiments respecting the examination of a candidate's experiences, it shall be determined how they shall act by the vote of the majority; or,

3. They shall desire the candidate to declare *in thesi*, what he thinks to be the experiences of a real convert; and then they may ask him whether he believes that he has experienced this saving change; or,

4. If peace cannot be thus preserved, it is proposed that ministers be joined together in Presbyteries, so that they may peaceably act according to the best of their judgment, and according to the dictates of a good conscience in the discharge of this important part of their ministerial duty.

The committee appointed yesterday not having agreed in any one overture, has brought in several, which were read, and are left under consideration till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Met at three o'clock, P. M. according to appointment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of ordaining ministers, *sine titulo*, further deferred.

The appointment of a committee to correspond with foreign churches, further deferred.

The address to the Governor, and that to the Assembly, not yet brought in.

An answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries further deferred.

The consideration of a request made by some of the Philadelphia Presbytery, further deferred.

The consideration of an appeal brought in from a judgment of the Donegal Presbytery, by a certain member of that Presbytery, deferred.

The overtures for an accommodation were resumed. As the affair is of great importance, the entering into a consideration of the matter was preceded by solemn prayer to God for his gracious presence and direction.

Whereas some members complain of two determinations of this Synod: The first was a resolution of a query concerning the examination of a candidate's experience, in order to his admission or rejection: The other was, the obvious sense of the sixth article of the plan of union, apprehending that by said determinations the Synod laid an obligation on them to act according to the sentiments expressed by said determinations:

Now to give relief and full satisfaction to such brethren, the Synod declares they had no designs by these determinations, to lay the least obligation or restraint on said members with respect to their conduct, but only to express their own sense of the meaning of that article, and their sentiments of the query; and hereupon the members declared themselves satisfied, and withdrew their protest.

The affair respecting the inquiry into the religious exercises or experiences of persons offering themselves as candidates for the ministry, was maturely considered; and, as a number of the members of the Synod do declare they cannot esteem an inquiry into a person's religious experiences, a proper, warrantable, or useful mean of obtaining a competent satisfaction of a candidate's experimental acquaintance with religion, and therefore cannot in conscience make use of it: The Synod earnestly desiring that all due liberty of conscience be preserved inviolate, and that peace and harmony be maintained and promoted, do agree that, when any person shall offer himself as a candidate for the ministry to any of our Presbyteries, every member of the Presbytery may use that way which he in conscience looks upon proper, to obtain a competent satisfaction of the person's experimental acquaintance with religion, and that then the Presbytery, as a Presbytery, shall determine whether they will take him on further trials. This agreement did not satisfy a number of the Synod.

In compliance with a request from some members of Philadelphia Presbytery, the Synod appoint that the members of that Presbytery be erected into two Presbyteries for one year at least; and that the new Presbytery be called by the name of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia; and that Messrs. Robert Cross, Francis Alison, John Ewing, John Simonton, and James Latta, be members thereof; and that their first meeting be at the first Presbyterian Church in this city, the second Tuesday in August.

The remaining business on our minutes is deferred till our next meeting, which is to be at Philadelphia, the third Wednesday of May next, at ten of the clock, A. M., at the second Presbyterian Church, till which time and place the Synod is now adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

1763.

May the 18*th*, 1763.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met, according to adjournment, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Hunter, Ramsey, Lawrence, Brainerd, Chesnut, Griffith, Clark, Beatty.

Of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia: Messrs. Alison, Ewing.

Of the Presbytery of New York: Messrs. Bostwick, McWhorter, Brush, Caldwell, Roe.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. William Tennent, senior, Samuel Finley, McKnight, Hait, Harker, Reed, Green, and William Tennent, junior.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. McDowell, Boyd, Blair, McKennan, Rodgers, James Finley, Strain, Hunt, Carmichael.

Of Donegal Presbytery: Messrs. Robert Smith, Tate, Sampson Smith, Duffield, Roan.

Of Lewistown Presbytery: Messrs. Charles Tennent, Wilson, Millar, Montgomery.

Of Hanover Presbytery: Mr. Todd.

Of Suffolk Presbytery: Mr. Mills.

Elders: Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Robert Parsons, Andrew Crawford, William Hazlett, Abel Griffiths, Richard Walker, Nathaniel McKinley, Aaron Mottison, John Wallace, Robert Ogden, Alexander Chalmers, John Smith, William Irwin, Valentine Dushane, Jonathan Kersley, Thomas Bourne, Alexander Rogers, James Whitehill, Samuel Cunningham, Patrick Campbell, John Long, Philip Tanner.

Mr. Rodgers chosen moderator; who, after having received from the former moderator the charge usually given respecting the execution of the moderator's office, took his place; and Mr. Roan was chosen clerk, and Mr. Kirkpatrick his assistant.

The Synod was opened by the last year's moderator, Mr. Brainerd, with a sermon from John ix. 4.

The reasons of the absence of Messrs. Boyd, Beatty, and Todd, sustained.

The affair respecting writing to Mr. Leonard, deferred till next *sederunt.*

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have licensed since our last, Mr. Patrick Alison to preach the gospel.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that they have ordained to the sacred work of the ministry since our last, Messrs. William Tennent, junior, and Enoch Green, who, being present, take their place as members of Synod; and that they have licensed Messrs. Jacob Kerr, Nathan Kerr, and James Lyon, to preach the gospel.

The Presbytery of New York report, that Mr. Caleb Smith is removed by death since our last.

Lewistown Presbytery report, that Mr. Hugh Henry is removed by death since our last, and that they have licensed Mr. Alexander Huston to preach the gospel.

Donegall Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. William Edmeston, and John Slemons, to preach the gospel since our last.

Hanover Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. David Rice to preach the gospel since our last, and that they have suspended Mr. John Wright, and ordained Mr. James Waddel.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. Goldsmith to preach since our last.

Appointed as a committee of bills and overtures, Messrs. Hunter, Ewing, Caldwell, Samuel Finley, William Tennent, senior, Blair, McKennan, Tate, Duffield, Millar, Todd, and Mills, ministers; and Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Richard Walker, James Whitehill, Valentine Dushane, and John Wallace, elders, to meet to-morrow evening, at seven of the clock, at the second Presbyterian meeting-house in this city, and as often afterwards as may be requisite.

The Presbyteries of New Brunswick, Donegall, Hanover, and Suffolk, have not brought their Presbytery books. 'Tis ordered, that they be careful to bring them to next Synod; and that every Presbytery bring their books yearly.

Ordered, That Messrs. Roan and Kirkpatrick examine the first Philadelphia Presbytery book; that Messrs. Brainerd and Millar examine New York Presbytery book. The second Presbytery of Philadelphia have not prepared their book to be revised. Messrs. Hait and Lawrence are to examine Lewestown Presbytery book.

Ordered, That all these books be delivered to the examiners to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to bring in the account of the disposal of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth, report that there is five hundred pounds proclamation Jersey money appropriated for this purpose; the interest of which is to be reckoned at six per cent., or thirty pounds per annum, clear of all expenses: and that the various committees appointed from the year 1758, have made such distributions of that money that there appears to have been last October, twenty-seven pounds in the hands of the treasurer.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, A. M. at nine of the clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. James Finley, Israel Read, Abner Brush, Azael Row, Alexander McWhorter, David Bostwick, and Mr. McKnight, are now come, and the reasons of their yesterday's absence are sustained.

Messrs. Philip Tanner, and Nathaniel McKinley, are also come.

Mr. Abner Brush is appointed to inform Mr. Silas Leonard that he is desired to attend our next Synodical meeting, or give his reasons for non-attendance, otherwise his name shall be left out of the Synod's roll; and that Mr. Brush deliver to him a copy of this minute, and bring us his answer at our next meeting.

Mr. Beard is now come, and the reasons of his delay are sustained.

Messrs. Samuel Finley, William Tennent, senior, Guild, Hait, Brainerd, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, appointed to be a committee to dispose of the interest in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, for the education of poor and pious youths, which was due last October; and also of what shall become due at the end of the current year; who are to meet at Princetown the next examination of candidates for degrees.

Mr. Harker is come, and his reasons for yesterday's absence are sustained.

Mr. Jonathan Kersley, one of the elders, is also come.

The Synod appoint as their commission for the ensuing year, Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Dr. Alison, Ewing, John Millar, Wilson, Samuel Finley, Boyd, Blair, Tait, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, senior, Guild, Azariah Horton, Brown, Spencer, Brainerd, Bostwick, Hunter, Beatty, McDowell, with the moderator; and the following elders, Messrs. Jonathan

Wallace, Gunning Bedford, Richard Walker, Thomas Bourne, John Smith, James Whitehill, and Nathaniel McKinley, of which twelve, and the moderator, shall be a quorum, of which ten shall be ministers; and in case of the moderator's death, or absence, the first in the order of the minute remaining, shall call the commission, if there be occasion, and preside therein.

Mr. Duffield wrote to the Presbytery of Suffolk, and the reasons for their absence for some years past, were sustained.

It is recommended to them to attend as often as possible, or to send commissioners.

Dr. Alison, Mr. Gilbert Tennent, Cross, Treat, and Ewing, were appointed to collect, and to put into the hands of the treasurer of the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, &c. the money belonging to the late Synod of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That Messrs. McDowell, Treat, Samuel Finley, Blair, and Ewing, be a committee to settle the affairs of the Synod's fund with Dr. Alison, and make a distribution of the interest according to the agreement of the union, and bring in a report at our next meeting.

The Synod appoint, that in case the governments under which the members respectively reside, do not appoint a day of thanksgiving for the blessings of a peace, after it has been proclaimed, the several members do observe a day for that purpose in due time.

The members who have made collections for the Indian Mission are ordered to pay in the same to Mr. Ewing before to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That there be a collection made in all the congregations under the care of this Synod, both in those who have and who have not ministers settled among them, for the Indian mission and the Indian school; and that every Presbytery take care that the collections in their vacancies be made in due time; and that thirty pounds be given to a school-master for the ensuing year; and that Messrs. John Meas, John Wallace, George Bryan, John Bayard, Isaac Snowdon, be requested to assist Mr. Brainerd to build a school-house and to dispose of the money collected for the use of said school, and lay the accounts before the next Synod; and that Mr. George Bryan be appointed treasurer of the committee.

The Synod having considered the importance of the mission among the Oneida Indians, and the small sum of money allowed by the society in Britain to Mr. Occam, their missionary, together with the number of his family, have thought proper to take that mission under their consideration and care for the ensuing year, and order, that he be allowed sixty-five pounds for this year. It is also requested of the commissioners in New York, that they write immediately to the society in Scotland, praying them to grant a larger sum for the support of said mission; and that the money collected in New York and some other neighbouring congregations be paid into the hands of Mr. Bostwick, to enable him to pay Mr. Occam the sum promised him by the Synod, and that he lay a fair state of these accounts before the Synod at their next meeting.

Ordered, also, That Mr. Ewing procure a state of the accounts of Mr. Sergeant, relating to the Indian mission under the care of Mr. Brainerd, and lay them, with an account of the money received by himself, before the Synod at their next meeting.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, at three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Strain is now come, and his reasons for delaying so long are sustained.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Green fulfilled his appointments to Virginia. Mr. William Tennent, jun. not fulfilling his, is excused.

The Synod find that many of their candidates do not attend their meetings, and for this reason many of their appointments are not fulfilled; they judge that candidates should constantly attend their respective Presbyteries, and as often as they can conveniently they should attend our Synods. They therefore recommend it to all our Presbyteries to propose one or more of their candidates as persons that they think proper to be sent to preach to our frontier settlements, and that they let these candidates know that they intend to propose them as such to the Synod, that so our Synodical appointments may be more punctually fulfilled. And that no candidate, without very weighty reasons, presume to break our appointments; and it is recommended to the Presbyteries to impress their minds with a sense of the importance of obeying Synodical orders and appointments.

Mr. Harker's affair, which was brought before the Synod some years ago, deferred.

The appeal from Donegall Presbytery respecting elders, deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. McKnight and Botswick are added to the members appointed last year to examine Mr. Harker's book, who are to meet at three of the clock to-morrow afternoon, to bring in their report next Monday morning.

The committee met at Chestnut Level, according to appointment, and their minutes were read, as also the minutes of Donegall Presbytery respecting the affair which the committee were to consider.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, at nine of the clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The two first articles in the committee's report, who met at Chestnut Level, with the Presbytery's appeal from the judgment of the committee, came under consideration, but deferred till Monday next for want of time to issue them.

Adjourned till Monday morning, at ten of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, at ten, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Messrs. Boyd and William Tennent, Jun. excepted, who had leave to go home.)

Mr. John Simonton is now come, and the reasons for his coming so late were sustained.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison, Messrs. Bostwick, S. Finley, with the moderator, be a committee to form and bring in an address to his majesty on the birth of the prince and the establishment of a peace.

The committee appointed to examine Mr. Harker's book, have not brought in their report. Ordered, That they bring it in to-morrow morning.

The affair considered by the committee who met last year at Chestnut Level, deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, three of the clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A request from the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, &c. was brought in and read, which is as follows:

"Nov. 16, 1762. At a meeting of the corporation in this city it was agreed, that this board appoint some of their members to wait on the Synod at their next meeting, and in their name request that some missionaries be sent to preach to the distressed frontier inhabitants, and to report their distresses, and to let us know where new congregations are a forming, and what is necessary to be done to promote the spread of the gospel among them, and that they inform us what opportunities there may be of preaching the gospel to the Indian nations in their neighbourhood.

"And it is agreed that the necessary expenses of these missionaries be paid by this board, and that Messrs. John Meas, Dr. Redman, William Humphreys, George Bryans, Treat, Ewing, and the secretary, wait on the Synod, and earnestly press them to grant this request."

In consequence of the above request the Synod appoint Messrs. Beatty and Brainerd to go on the aforesaid mission, as soon as they can conveniently, so as to be able to return so as to make a report to the corporation at their next general meeting in October. And that Messrs. William Tennent, sen., McKnight and Hunter, supply Mr. Brainerd's pulpit and take care of his concerns among the Indians, and that Mr. Treat supply Mr. Beatty's pulpit once every three Sabbaths. Mr. Chestnut is to supply at Barnegate and Manchockin the first Sabbath of September.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, at nine o'clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Beatty, whose absence is known, and the reasons sustained.)

As the Synod have the mission to the frontiers much at heart, therefore lest it miscarry it is ordered, that if either Mr. Beatty or Mr. Brainerd fail of going, Mr. Kirkpatrick shall go in the place of the person who fails.

The affair depending between some of the Presbytery of Donegall, and the committee of the Synod that met at Chesnut Level, came under consideration; and after much time spent in debating the first report of the committee respecting the evidence given by Margaret McCleland, it was put to the vote, whether the Synod do approve the judgment of the committee or not, and it was carried approve by a great majority.

The article relating to Agnes McKnight, who was not allowed by the committee to give her evidence was considered, and voted approve the conduct of the committee or not; and there were ten *non liquets;* but the committee's judgment was disapproved by a great majority.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Ewing begged leave to protest against the last judgment of the Synod, for the following reasons:

1. Because, whether Margaret McCleland first informed the mother or not, it is certain she joined the other young woman, Agnes McKnight, in the report; and they only are the raisers and propagators of that shocking defamation. But, by the late judgment, a person deserving to suffer as a vile defamer and a slanderer, may save herself by swearing that the person defamed is guilty. It appears also by this decision that any such a reporter may prove his own report upon oath, and so a person most deeply interested may by this single

oath, without any other evidence, prove a criminal case, which is destructive of all civil or religious societies, as it puts it in the power of any one malicious or interested person to deprive others of life, character, or property, by only saying that they are guilty, and then swearing it.

2. Because it is contrary to the express word of God, in many places, concerning the number and qualifications of witnesses; such as Deut. xix. 15, "one witness shall not rise up (or be established) against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses shall every matter be established." See also 1 Tim. v. 19, "against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses." So Num. iii. 17; Matt. xviii. 16; Jon. viii. 17; 2 Cor. xiii. 1. Now Margaret McCleland is adduced to prove some rudeness or immodesty offered to herself by an elder, or minister, as appears from the minutes of the Presbytery of Donegall, taken in conjunction with the minutes of the committee, who say that she looks on herself to have been unduly treated on the night of the diversion.

3. Because the admission of such single or interested evidences is contrary to the judgment of our best divines, as Willard on the Ninth Com. Ames de Conscientia, and many more. It is against the law of nature and the sacred rights of mankind in the judgment of all our moralists, as Hutcheson, Puffendorf, Carmichael, Grotius, &c. and contrary to the laws and customs of all civilized nations. See, on this topic, Justinian's Code; the Law of Evidences, page 121, 126; Hawkins' Pleas, page 256; Viner's Abridgment, page 247. So the admission of such evidences is contrary to the reason and common sense of mankind, and dishonourable to this body.

4. Because civil courts require witnesses to swear that they are disinterested in the issue of the cause. See Cook. Littleton. And our Church rules also require that witnesses swear themselves free of bribery, malice, and party counsel, before they are admitted to bear testimony, which Margaret McCleland cannot safely do, and therefore should not be admitted. And it is a manifest inconsistency, both in the Synod and in the committee, to determine to admit her evidence before such an oath is tendered to her.

5. Because the gospel requires, that, in case of private offence, the offender be dealt with privately, then before witnesses, and lastly before the Church, if the former fails. Now if a person, in opposition to our Saviour's direction, spreads horrid defamations and scandal, without either speaking to the person offending, or relating it to a proper judicature at first, such a person cannot be accounted afterwards simply an informer, but a gross defamer, be the matter true or false, and therefore unworthy to bear testimony either in their own case or any other, until he or she reforms; and this appears to be the present case.

Therefore, I cannot but protest against such procedure wherever it happens for the exoneration of mine own conscience, and declare that I think it would be criminal in me to pay any regard or submission to any sentence that may hereafter be passed by any of our judicatures upon such evidence as has been herein specified. JOHN EWING.

Upon hearing what Mr. Ewing has now given in as the reasons of his protest against the preceding votes, the Synod think fit to declare, that they apprehend they had a view of the matter different from his, inasmuch as they did not at all design to judge of the merits of the case, or how far one or more evidences should conclude in any affair depending before the judicature; but only determined in the particular instances mentioned, that for aught any thing advanced by the Presbytery or the committee, those persons should have been admitted to give in their testimony.

The committee for bringing in the report on Mr. Harker's book, report that they are not yet prepared.

The affair depending between some of the members of the Presbytery of Donegall and the committee of the Synod was further considered, and both parties were heard and their minutes were read with great attention, and the determination thereof is deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod proceeded to consider the affair of the committee, and the appeal of some members of the Presbytery of Donegall from their judgment, and after mature consideration thereof they agreed *nemine contradicente*, in the following judgment:

1. That the committee had a proper right and authority to hear and try the case between Elizabeth McCleland and Mr. Sampson Smith, so far as the Presbytery had closed their judgment thereupon.

2. The Synod judge that the committee justly disapproved the conduct of the Presbytery in the manner of taking evidences by question and answer, respecting the affair of Tuesday night; judging that every proper method should be taken to bring out the whole truth in the matter depending, which sometimes can best be done by way of narrative, and by requiring the witnesses to tell the whole truth in relation thereto, as well as nothing but the truth.

3. That the Synod do approve the judgment of the committee with respect to Jean Richey's being admitted as an evidence.

4. That as to the judgment of the committee with respect to William Richey and Mrs. Thoms, the Synod do not determine any thing positively concerning them, but refer the decision thereof to the committee to be appointed to sit on the whole affair.

5. Therefore the Synod do re-appoint the same members to be a committee, who met last year in Chestnut Level, with full power and authority to begin and examine the whole affair between Mr. Smith and Elizabeth McCleland, *de novo*, and issue and determine the same as they think proper; provided, always, that they reject not such evidences upon such grounds as the Synod have judged insufficient, and provided also they do not enter on the consideration of any particular instances of charge not yet specified. But this proviso is by no means to restrict the committee from receiving and admitting any new evidence offered for the support of the particular instances of the charge already brought, or in point of defence. And the Synod do appoint said committee to meet at Little Britain meeting-house, at ten o'clock, A. M. the last Wednesday of July next, for this purpose, that six be a quorum, and that the clerk give the parties notice of the matter to be issued, with the time and place of meeting, and summonses for the evidences.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Harker's affair came under consideration, and the Synod heard the committee's report respecting his principles collected from his book, and the particular passages which they apprehended were expressive of these principles, were read.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A supplication was brought in from Hanover in Virginia, for supplies, to which Mr. Todd added a more general request, for young men to supply in the bounds of Hanover Presbytery. Mr. Miller also applied for supplies in the bounds of Lewes Presbytery; and Mr. Duffield made the same request for the west side of Susquehanna in the bounds of Donegall Presbytery.

In consequence of these applications, the Synod appointed Mr. Green to go as soon as he can into the bounds of Lewes Presbytery and supply there two months, and in his return he is to supply in the bounds of New Castle a month or six weeks, as it may suit his circumstances. Messrs. William Tennent, jun'r. and Jacob Ker, are appointed as soon as they can, to go and supply in the bounds and under the direction of Hanover Presbytery six months at least.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod proceeded to consider Mr. Harker's principles collected from his book by the committee, which are in substance as follows:

1. That the covenant of grace is in such a sense conditional, that fallen mankind in their unregenerate state, by the general assistance given to all under the gospel, have a sufficient ability to fulfil the conditions thereof, and so, by their own endeavours to ensure to themselves regenerating grace and all saving blessings.

2. That God has bound himself by promise to give them regenerating grace upon their fulfilling what he, (Mr. Harker,) calls the direct conditions of obtaining it, and upon the whole, makes a certain and an infallible connection between their endeavours and the aforesaid blessings.

3. That God's prescience of future events, is previous to and not dependent on his decrees, that his decrees have no influence on his own conduct, and that the foresight of faith was the ground of the decree of election.

It is further observed, that he often uses inaccurate, unintelligible, and dangerous modes of expression, that tend to lead people into false notions in several important matters, as that Adam was the federal father of his posterity in the second covenant as well as in the first; that the regenerate are not in a state of probation for heaven, and several such like.

The Synod judge that these principles are of a hurtful and a dangerous tendency, giving a false view of the covenant of grace, perverting it into a new modelled covenant of works, and misrepresent the doctrine of the divine decrees as held by the best Reformed churches, and in fine, are contrary to the word of God and our approved standards of doctrine. The Synod called in Mr. Harker and questioned him in many particulars, and the further consideration of his affair is deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Carmichael and Green, who went away without leave.)

Mr. Harker's affair was resumed, and the Synod, upon mature deliberation, came to the following judgment, viz:

The Synod considering that Mr. Harker has for several years been dealt with in the tenderest manner, and much pains taken by his brethren in private, and in the Presbytery to which he belongs, and by committees which the Synod appointed to confer with him, in order to reclaim him from his erro-

neous notions; but that instead of succeeding in these attempts, he appeared to be rather confirmed and resolute in propagating his opinions among the people, by a variety of methods to the great scandal of the church, seducing and perplexing the unwary and unstable: and as he has departed from the truth, and opposed this church in some important articles, and misrepresented the Church of Scotland, his doctrine and practice have a schismatical tendency. On the whole, though the exclusion of a member be grievous, yet we judge that the said Mr. Samuel Harker cannot consistently be continued a member of this body, and accordingly declare him disqualified for preaching or exercising his ministry in any congregation or vacancy under our care; and do hereby order, that all be duly warned not to receive his doctrines, nor admit his ministrations, until it shall please God to convince him of his mistakes, and to bring him to the acknowledgment of the truth, and recover him from the error of his ways.

Upon hearing the foregoing minute read, Mr. Harker requested a copy, which the Synod ordered to be given him properly attested.

After some time Mr. Harker came in, and desired to be informed by the Synod, what they designed by their determination respecting him as to its nature and extent. The Synod were much divided in their opinions, but the majority of the Synod returned the following answer: That as by our determination in the forenoon, he is declared disqualified for exercising any part of the ministerial office in any of the congregations or vacancies under our care, so by a parity of reason we judge him disqualified to exercise it any where while he retains his present sentiments.

The Synod order Mr. Nathan Ker, and Mr. Lyon to go to Virginia as soon as they can, and supply three months at least under the care of Hanover Presbytery.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine the several Presbytery books brought in their reports, which are as follow:

The Presbytery books of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia and Lewes are approved. New York Presbytery book was approved, save some inaccuracies and improprieties. And also New Castle Presbytery book, excepting one particular judgment respecting Pencader congregation, which judgment the Synod have not sufficient light to approve or disapprove.

The members of Synod being few, and fatigued with close application to business, agree that the affair respecting the second Philadelphia Presbytery be deferred till next Synod, when the members are expected to be more generally present, and in a condition more deliberately to determine whether said Presbytery shall be continued or dissolved.

The affair of ordaining ministers, *sine titulo*, is referred to each Presbytery, that their members may be prepared to discuss it next Synod.

An answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries, deferred till our next Synod, and it is recommended to our Presbyteries to take copies of them, in order to have them discussed.

Mr. Duffield's appeal, in respect to a certain evidence in the affair at Chestnut Level, has been effectually determined in considering the affair of the committee and Donegall Presbytery.

The appeal brought in by Messrs. Robert Smith, and Duffield, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, respecting the ordination of elders, deferred till next Synod.

A request was brought in from a Presbytery in New York government, to

the east of North River, desiring to be incorporated with this Synod, and that some members of the Presbyteries of New York and Suffolk, which are contiguous, may be allowed to be joined with them in a Presbyterial capacity.

After several members of this body had given full satisfaction concerning their characters, their good standing in the Churches, and that it was not from any unbrotherly or unfriendly views, nor from any disaffection to the neighbouring churches that they desired to unite with us, it is agreed to grant their request, provided that they agree to adopt our Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and engage to observe the Directory as a plan of worship, discipline, and government, according to the agreement of this Synod. 'Tis allowed that Mr. John Smith, and Mr. Chauncy Graham, join with them; and from Suffolk Presbytery, Messrs. Samuel Sacket, and Eliphalet Ball, and that they be called by the name of Dutchess County Presbytery; and that Mr. David Bostwick send them a copy of this minute, to let them know our determination.

A supplication and an appeal from the second Presbyterian congregation in Philadelphia, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, respecting the removal of Mr. Duffield, was brought in. This affair is deferred till three o'clock, P. M. on Monday next.

Adjourned till Monday next, at ten, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

30th day, at ten of the clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Tait and Brush, whose absence is excused.)

A query was brought in, in these words: "As sundry members and congregations within the bounds of our Synod, judge it most for their edification to sing Dr. Watts's imitation of David's Psalms, does the Synod so far approve said imitation of David's Psalms as to allow such ministers, and their congregations, the liberty of using them?"

As a great number of this body have never particularly considered Dr. Watts's imitation, they are not prepared to give a full answer to the question. Yet as it is well approved by many of this body, the Synod have no objection to the use of the said imitation by such ministers and congregations as incline to use it, until the matter of psalmody be further considered. And it is recommended to the members of this body to be prepared to give their sentiments respecting this subject at our next meeting.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The supplication and appeal from the second Presbyterian congregation in this city was read; but as there appeared no commissioners from Carlisle and the Big Spring to give the Synod light in this matter, the Synod cannot determine it at present. But as it appears that the congregations of Carlisle and the Big Spring never had the opportunity of being heard before the Presbytery of Donegall, and that they, for this reason, have not had proper means of obtaining light sufficient to examine and determine this cause, the Synod remit the affair to said Presbytery, and appoint them to meet at Carlisle, the last Wednesday of June, to hear and determine the matter; and if the case must return to the Synod either by appeal or reference, the moderator of the Presbytery immediately inform the moderator of the Synod by a letter, that the commission of the Synod may be called.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be sent by the clerk to the session of Carlisle and Big Spring.

A certain Andrew Mahaffey brought an appeal from a judgment of the Pres-

bytery of Donegall, confirming a judgment of the session of Chestnut Level. The minutes of said session were read, and said Mahaffey fully heard. Upon the whole, the Synod judge: 1. That inasmuch as Andrew Mahaffey submitted to the judgment of the session with respect to himself, that he ought not to have been deprived of any church privileges because he disapproved of, and appealed from, the judgment in other instances. 2. That the Synod agree with the session that there is not sufficient evidence to convict Andrew Boyd of the crime he was charged with, yet it appears to this Synod by the depositions laid before them, that the said Andrew Boyd used a very indecent and immodest freedom with the wife of said Andrew Mahaffey, for which he ought to have been censured by the session, and they are enjoined hereby to rebuke and admonish him for the same. 3. That though the Synod are not clear that the charge of perjury is to be fixed on said Andrew Mahaffey's wife, yet they are clear that she is guilty of falsehoods and contradictions in what she has sworn and afterwards declared in that affair, and therefore she ought to be debarred from the distinguishing privileges of the church until the matter can be further cleared, or she give proper evidence of repentance.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

31 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

A supplication was brought into the Synod from the first congregation of West Nottingham, to be disannexed from the Presbytery of New Castle, and to be united to the Presbytery of Donegall. In reasoning on this subject many of the Synod were of the mind, having considered the situation of the congregation, that it would not be expedient to set off said congregation as requested, without setting off some other congregations and ministers in like manner; therefore it was proposed that the other congregation of West Nottingham, the congregation of Little Britain, with Mr. Hunt their minister elect, and Mr. Strain, and his congregations, should be also set off, and it being put to the vote, it was carried that all these congregations should be set off from the Presbytery of New Castle and annexed to the Presbytery of Donegall.

Adjourned till three of the o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An appeal was brought in from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall respecting the licensure of Mr. William Edmiston, in consequence whereof the Synod heard the reasonings of both parties, and after a deliberate consideration of what was offered, it was judged that the conduct of the Presbytery was not to be approved in licensing that young gentleman, until the objections offered against their proceedings to his licensure had been fully considered. The Synod, with the consent of Donegall Presbytery, agree to refer the trial of Mr. Edmiston's affair to the committee, to meet at Little Britain, to be by them issued, and that Messrs. Guild and Bay be joined to the said committee, to try all affairs to come before them, and that all parties be cited by the clerk.

The society incorporated for the widows' fund, gave a commission to Messrs. Treat, Finley, and Dr. Alison, to apply to the Synod, desiring that they appoint a committee to sit with them the first Tuesday of November, that they may jointly consider on the return of the missionaries from the frontiers what may be most proper to be done to promote the kingdom of Christ there, and what sums may be necessary to defray their expenses, inasmuch as some of the money under the care of this corporation is to be disposed of for such pious uses, with the approbation of such a committee.

Messrs. Montgomery, Hunter, Kirkpatrick, Simonton, and Ramsey, are appointed a committee for this purpose.

The address to the king was read and approved.

Ordered, That it be signed by the moderator in the name of the Synod, and directed to Dr. Samuel Chandler, in London, requesting that he and the honourable William Allen, Esquire, and Andrew Elliot, Esquire, both of this city but now in London, and Dr. Avery, of London, and whoever else these gentlemen think proper to join with them, wait on his majesty and present it in our name.

The Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennent labouring under bodily indisposition that renders him unable statedly to preach to his people, he, in conjunction with his congregation, made application for supplies to his pulpit the ensuing summer. The Synod appoint as follows: that Mr. Kirkpatrick supply the first Sabbath of June; Mr. Treat the second; Mr. Treat, junior, the third and fourth; Mr. Jacob Kerr the first, second, and third Sabbaths of July; Mr. Hunter the fourth; and Mr. Ramsey the fifth; Mr. Robert Smith the first, and Mr. William Tennent the second Sabbath of August; Mr. Rogers the third, and Mr. Montgomery the fourth; and Mr. Thompson the month of October.

Mr. Samuel Harker brought in a paper which was read, and the Synod did not see any reason from what was there offered to alter their judgment.

At three o'clock, P. M. adjourned till the third Wednesday in May next, to meet at Elizabethtown, at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1764.

Elizabethtown, May 16*th*, 1764.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to appointment at the first Presbyterian church in this town. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Suffolk Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Talmage, and William Mills.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Simon Horton, Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, Aaron Richards, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Woodroff, Abner Brush, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Treat, James Caldwell, Azael Roe, and Samuel Packhurst.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Samuel Finley, Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, John Guild, Enoch Green, William Tennent, jun'r.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery; The Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, John Brainerd, Daniel Lawrence, and William Ramsey.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Rogers and John Carmichael.

Of Donegall Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith and James Hunt.

Of Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. Joseph Montgomery.

Elders: Messrs. Elnathan Wilks, Gideon Hedges, Joseph Prudden, John Oliver, Simon Ross, John Woodroff, Samuel Camp, Garret Noel, Samuel Woodroff, Joseph Kerr.

Ministers absent: Of Suffolk Presbytery: Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, Abner Reeve, Samuel Buel, Nehemiah Barker, James Brown, Ezra Reeve, Moses Baldwin, Samson Occam, Thomas Payne.

Of New York Presbytery: Messrs. Jacob Green, John Darby, Moses Tuttlĕ, John Moffat, Enos Ayres, Abraham Kettletas, John Maltby, Hugh Knox.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Messrs. Charles McKnight, Samuel Ken-

nedy, James McCrea, William Kirkpatrick, John Hannah, Job Prudden, Benjamin Hait, Thomas Smith.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Andrew Hunter, Nehemiah Greenman, John Clark, Benjamin Chesnut, and John Griffith.

All the second Philadelphia Presbytery absent.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Messrs. Adam Boyd, John Blair, Alexander McDowell, Andrew Sterling, Andrew Bay, James Finley, William McKennan, and Alexander Hutchinson.

Of Donegall Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thomson, John Steel, John Elder, John Roan, Joseph Tate, Sampson Smith, Robert McMordie, John Hogg, George Duffield, John Strain, and John Baird.

Of Lewes Presbytery: Messrs. Charles Tennent, John Millar, Matthew Wilson, and John Harris.

All the Presbytery of Hanover absent.

Mr. Beatty was chosen moderator, who, after having received a charge from the last year's moderator respecting the discharge of his duty, took his place; Mr. Caldwell was chosen clerk, and Mr. Montgomery assistant.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Rogers, the last year's moderator, by a sermon from Acts xi. 24.

The Rev. Messrs. Charles Jeffrey Smith, and Benoni Bradner being present, were desired to sit as correspondents.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Thomas Smith now come and excused. The members are all excused who have given their reasons for their absence in times past.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that since our last Mr. Henry Martin is deceased. The Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that since our last they have ordained to the work of the ministry the Rev. Messrs. Amos Thompson, Jacob Kerr, and Nathan Kerr, who being present took their seats in the Synod; and that they licensed Messrs. David Caldwell, Francis Pepper, and John Roxburrow, to preach the gospel. The Presbytery of New York report, that the Rev. Mr. David Bostwick is, since our last, removed by death, and that they have received Mr. John Murray, a candidate from Ireland, under their care. Suffolk Presbytery report, that since our last they have admitted Mr. Thomas Pain as a member. New Castle Presbytery report, that since our last the Rev. Mr. Thane is removed by death.

Appointed for a committee of overtures, the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Talmage, William Tennent, Samuel Finley, Robert Smith, Azariah Horton, Aaron Richards, Richard Treat, John Brainerd, John Rodgers. Elders: Messrs. Samuel Woodroff, Joseph Kerr, Garret Noel, and John Hannah, to meet to-morrow morning at eight o'clock, at this place, and as often afterwards as they may think proper.

Messrs. Benjamin Woodroff, Robert Smith, and Joseph Treat, are appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Brunswick. The Presbytery of Donegall have not brought in their Presbytery book, notwithstanding repeated orders given for that purpose several years; the Synod highly blame such delays and neglects, and appoint Messrs. Robert Smith, and James Hunt to take particular care that the book be brought in next year, and that a copy of this minute be sent to the Presbytery. Messrs. Read and Ramsey appointed to revise the Presbytery book of Suffolk. Messrs. William Tennent and Spencer appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New York. The

books of the first and second Philadelphia Presbytery, of New Castle, Hanover, and Lewestown, not brought in.

Mr. Brush reports, he complied with the last Synod's order with respect to Mr. Leonard, and further reports, that since that time Mr Leonard is dead.

The committee appointed to dispose of the interest money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college, appropriated to the education of the poor and pious youth, report, that they met according to appointment, but their minutes not being present, they are not able to give a particular account of the matter. The Synod appoint Dr. Finley, with Messrs. William Tennent, Guild, Brainerd, Blair, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, and the moderator, to be a committee to meet at Princeton the third Wednesday of August, to dispose of as much of said money as shall be due at next commencement if there be need.

The Synod appoint as their commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Treat, Dr. Alison, Ewing, John Miller, Wilson, Dr. Finley, Blair, Boyd, Tate, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Guild, Azariah Horton, James Brown, Spencer, Brainerd, Hunter, McDowell, Jones, Rodgers, with the moderator. And the following elders, Messrs. Samuel Woodroff, Garret Noel, John Hannah, Joseph Kerr, Joseph Prudden, whereof thirteen members, including the moderator, shall be a quorum, of which ten shall be ministers; and that in case of the moderator's death or absence, the first in order of the minute remaining, have a power to call the commission and preside.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment, post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Alison and Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Cross, Treat, and Ewing, appointed last year to be a committee to collect and put into the hands of the corporation, for the relief, &c. the money formerly belonging the fund of the late Synod of Philadelphia, not having made report, are appointed to comply with the order by our next Synod, if not already done.

Ordered, That those who have made a collection for the Indian school and mission, bring in the money to Mr. Brainerd before our next *sederunt*, and that he lay the account before the Synod. The further consideration of the affair referred to that time.

The Synod find that Mr. Joseph Treat's reasons for not going to Virginia, were sustained by the Presbytery by which he was appointed.

The moderator and Mr. Brainerd were prevented from fulfilling the order of the Synod in their mission to the frontiers, and the whole design of the mission was entirely prostrated by the breaking out of the Indian war.

Mr. Hait is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner sustained.

Messrs. Enoch Green, William Tennent, jun'r, and Jacob Kerr, complied with the appointments of our last Synod.

Whereas Messrs. Read, Carmichael, and Enoch Green, left the Synod last year without asking leave, the Synod cannot but disapprove of the same, and do judge that such conduct in their members is contrary to the design, and destructive to the very nature of such judicatures, who are always to be supposed to give leave when sufficient reasons are offered.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18 *day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The settlement of the Indian affairs with Mr. Brainerd, deferred till our next *sederunt.*

Mr. Nathan Kerr's reasons for not complying with our last year's appointment, sustained.

The Presbytery to which Mr. Lyon belonged, rendered satisfactory reasons for his not complying with the last Synod's appointment.

Mr. John Miller having left the Synod last year without leave, and not being present now, the consideration of it is deferred till our next Synod.

The affair of Second Philadelphia Presbytery referred to this Synod, came under consideration in the course of reading last year's minute, and after some discourse upon the subject, they do not judge it expedient to determine at this time whether said Presbytery be continued or not, but refer it to the next Synod.

The question, Ought ministers to be ordained, *sine titulo?* came under consideration; and after the several Presbyteries had delivered their sentiments, and every member had been called upon to speak to it, the Synod appoint Messrs. Richard Treat, Rodgers, and Dr. Finley, a committee to draw up a minute in answer to said question, and bring it in at our next *sederunt.*

Messrs. Gilbert Tennent, Cross, Dr. Alison, Ewing, Richard Treat, Samuel Finley, Rodgers, Brainerd, and the moderator, are appointed a committee of correspondence with the American and foreign churches, for the ensuing year; and that they meet at Philadelphia the last Wednesday of July, at three o'clock, P. M.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The settlement of the Indian affairs with Mr. Brainerd further deferred.

The committee appointed to bring in a minute with respect to the question, Ought ministers to be ordained *sine titulo?* are come in; and after considerable deliberation, the affair is deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

19 *day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Mr. Pierson, who had leave to go away.)

The moderator being unexpectedly called away, Mr. Rodgers, the last year's moderator, was desired to take the chair until his return.

The Indian affairs come under consideration, and Mr. Brainerd reports that there has been paid into his hands the sum of twenty-eight pounds, nineteen shillings, and four pence, provincial currency, which money, with other collections that are, or may be put into his hands, the Synod order to be laid out as in manner ordered last year, for the support of the Indian school, and that the money allowed for the support of the master, shall not exceed fifty pounds, provincial currency; and further appoint, that a collection be made this year also, through their bounds, for the support of said school; and that each Presbytery take care that said collection be duly made through their bounds, and that they lay their accounts, regularly adjusted, before our next Synod.

And Mr. Brainerd further reports, that there appears to have been paid to Mr. Occam, about the sum of thirty-four pounds, provincial currency.

The Synod order that the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey for Indian affairs, be given to Mr. Brainerd the ensuing year.

The question, Ought ministers to be ordained *sine titulo?* i. e. without relation, or probable view had, to a particular charge, resumed; and, after further deliberation, we judge as follows: That in ordinary cases, where churches are properly regulated and organized, it is a practice highly inexpedient, and of dangerous consequences, not to be allowed in our body except in some special cases, as missions to the Indians, and some distant places that regularly apply for ministers. But as the honour and reputation of the Synod is much interested in the conduct of Presbyteries in such special cases, it is judged, that they should previously apply to the Synod and take their advice therein, unless the cases require such haste as would necessarily prevent the benefit of such a mission if delayed to the next session of Synod. In which cases the Presbyteries shall report to the next Synod the state of the cases, and the reasons for their conduct.

The third, fourth, and fifth queries in the Synod's book came under consideration, and after considerable deliberation, we appoint Messrs. Samuel Finley, Spencer, Tennent, Guild, Montgomery, Hunt, Caldwell, Samuel Woodroff, and the moderator, to prepare a minute and bring it in at the next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till Monday morning, at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Mr. John Hannah, Mr. Smith's elder, who is gone home.)

The committee for preparing a minute upon the third, fourth, and fifth queries, report they met but had not time to finish it.

Ordered, They bring it in at next *sederunt.*

An appeal of Messrs. Smith, Roan, and Duffield, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, with respect to the ordination of elders, deferred till next Synod, (all the parties not being present,) at which time they are ordered to be present and prepared for trial, that the affair may be issued.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee for forming a minute in answer to the third, fourth, and fifth queries in the Synod's book, made their report, and after deliberation and free debate, we judge as follows:

In answer to the third query, the Synod judge, that any student in divinity who professes a design to enter into the ministry, has a right in our present situation, to study for his improvement, under the direction of any divine of reputation in the Synod, according to a former act; but that when he proposes to enter upon trials, with a view to the ministry, he shall come under the care of that Presbytery to which he most naturally belongs: And he shall be deemed most naturally to belong to that Presbytery in whose bounds he has been brought up, and lived for the most part, and where he is best known. But if another Presbytery desire that any student or students should come into their bounds, or if any such student or students, for greater conveniency, or from any circumstances that make it necessary, desire to enter upon trials in a different Presbytery, upon his offering satisfactory reasons, he may be dismissed; but in either case, the Presbytery to which he removes shall not receive nor admit him to come under trials upon his having a certificate as a regular church

member only, but he shall bring a testimonial from the Presbytery, or several neighbouring ministers where he lived, recommending him as a candidate for the ministry, of exemplary piety and holiness of conversation, nor shall any thing less be esteemed a sufficient recommendation.

Messrs. Montgomery and Talmage dissent from the above judgment.

In answer to the fourth query we judge, that though every Christian society should maintain communion with others as far as they can with a good conscience, yet no society in order to maintain communion, is obliged to adopt or imitate the irregularities and deficiencies of another, contrary to its own established and approved rules of procedure. And if any society or body of men are known to be of erroneous principles, or to be lax or negligent as to the orthodoxy or piety of those they admit into the ministry, as we apprehend to be the case of the New Light, in Ireland, and of some other particular judicatures and individual ministers who may, and in some places on this continent, do convene together as a temporary judicature for the single purpose of licensing, or ordaining a candidate: in such cases, none of our Presbyteries are obliged to receive and employ in their bounds, as gospel ministers or probationers, such persons, though producing fair certificates, and professing to adopt our Confession. But if any ordained minister, or candidate, comes well recommended by those on whose testimony we can depend, such are to be gladly received upon their adopting our Confession, and promising subjection in the Lord. (See this further explained in the minutes of 1765.)

As to the fifth query, though the Synod entertains a high regard for the Associated Churches of New England, yet we cannot but judge, that students who go to them, or to any other than our own Presbyteries to obtain license, in order to return and officiate among us, act very irregularly, and are not to be approved or employed by our Presbyteries, as hereby we are deprived of the right of trying and approving the qualifications of our own candidates; yet, if any case may happen wherein such a conduct may, in some circumstances be thought necessary, for the greater good of any congregation, it shall be laid before the Presbytery to which the congregation belongs, and approved of by them.

There is no report from the Presbytery of Dutchess county, whether they have complied with the last year's order respecting them.

Messrs. Brush and Parkhurst are ordered to give them notice that they are required to attend our next Synod, and give us an authentic account of their forming according to our orders, and that they bring their minutes.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Dr. Finley, and Messrs. R. Smith, Thomas Smith, and Bradner, who had leave to go home.)

The question respecting psalmody came to be considered, and after much discourse on the subject, the Synod do judge that they are not at present prepared to give a final answer thereto, and that it is most for the edification of the church to defer it to the next Synod. In the mean time we do confirm the agreement of the last Synod, and allow those congregations who find it most expedient to continue in the use of Dr. Watts's imitation till the matter be further considered and determined.

The committee appointed to meet at Little Britain to try the appeals from the judgment of Donegall Presbytery, with respect to Messrs. Sampson Smith and William Edmiston, report that they met and formed the following judgment. The further consideration of it deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine the several Presbyteries' books, brought in their reports, which are as follows:

The Presbytery book of New Brunswick approved except some omissions. The Presbytery book of New York approved except some few inaccuracies. The Presbytery book of Suffolk approved since the time of the union of the two Synods, except that they have neglected to record their candidates adopting our public standards at licensure, though they inform us it is matter of constant practice that they try and license at the same Presbytery, and in one instance ordained without previous trial or licensure; and that they license for a certain time. Of all which we highly disapprove.

The judgment of the committee which met at Little Britain again considered. And after mature deliberation, though we do not doubt the committee acted with the utmost integrity, nevertheless we judge, the censure they inflicted on Mr. Sampson Smith was not adequate to the crimes stated in their judgment.

Messrs. Lewis, Talmage and Weeks, Mr. Lewis's elder, have leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to meet the corporation for the relief, &c. report, that they met, but as our missionaries did not go to the frontiers there was no money to be disposed of, and they had nothing to do.

The Synod not fully understanding the state of the case with respect to the money in the hands of the corporation to be disposed of for pious uses in conjunction with the Synod's committee, we appoint Messrs. Brainerd, Spence, Ramsey, and Montgomery, a committee to inspect into the state of that affair and lay it before our next Synod.

The address to the king was presented, and we hear was most graciously received.

The appointments for Mr. Gilbert Tennent's congregation were substantially fulfilled.

Several supplications from North Carolina were presented by the committee of bills and overtures, earnestly praying for supplies, which were read and urged with several verbal relations representing the state of that country. In consequence thereof, Mr. Charles Jef. Smith, a correspondent with this Synod, informed us, that he intended to undertake a journey to the southward, in which we greatly rejoice, and appoint Mr. Smith to spend as much time as he conveniently can before our next Synod under the direction of the Hanover Presbytery.

As the Presbytery of New Brunswick have appointed Mr. Amos Thompson to supply for some time in Loudon county, Virginia, after said appointment is fulfilled, we recommend it to Mr. Thompson to supply under the direction of Hanover Presbytery till next Synod. Mr. David Caldwell, a candidate of New Brunswick Presbytery, is appointed to go as soon as possible, but not to defer it longer than next fall, and supply under the direction of the Hanover Presbytery till next Synod. The clerk ordered to give attested copies to these gentlemen of these our orders.

The Synod more particularly considering the state of many congregations

to the southward, and particularly North Carolina, and the great importance of having those congregations properly organized, appoint the Rev. Messrs. Elihu Spencer and Alexander McWhorter, to go as our missionaries for that purpose; that they form societies, help them in adjusting their bounds, ordain elders, administer sealing ordinances, instruct the people in discipline, and finally direct them in their after conduct, particularly in what manner they shall proceed to obtain the stated ministry, and whatever else may appear useful or necessary for those churches and the future settlement of the gospel among them. And also, that they assure those people wherever they go, that this Synod has their interest much at heart, and will neglect no opportunities of affording them proper candidates and supplies to the utmost of our power. Ordered, that the clerk give said missionaries an attested copy of this minute, and proper testimonials signed by the moderator and clerk. And that these brethren may not suffer by so long and expensive a journey, the Synod agree to defray their expenses and make them a proper acknowledgment for the damages they may sustain in their domestic affairs; and for this purpose a collection is ordered through our bounds, and each Presbytery required to see it be duly observed.

Mr. Mills is ordered to supply Mr. McWhorter's pulpit three Sabbaths, and the Presbytery of New York the remainder of the time during Mr. McWhorter's absence. And the Presbytery of New Brunswick ordered to supply Mr. Spencer's pulpit during his absence.

A request was made from the first Philadelphia Presbytery, also from Mr. Gilbert Tennent and his congregation, praying supplies for said congregation till November. We accordingly appoint the Rev. Mr. Brainerd to supply there the first Sabbath in June, Mr. Enoch Green the second, Mr. Richard Treat the third, Mr. William Tennent, jun'r. the fourth and first in July, Mr. Murray the second, third, fourth, and fifth; Mr. Rodgers the first Sabbath of August, Mr. Ramsey the second, Mr. Blair the third, Mr. Robert Smith the fourth; Mr. Kirkpatrick the first Sabbath in September, Mr. Beatty the second, Mr. Richard Treat the third, Mr. Montgomery the fourth, Mr. Hunt the fifth; Mr. Duffield the first and second Sabbaths in October, Mr. Guild the third, Mr. Kirkpatrick the fourth; and Mr. Lawrence the first Sabbath of November.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A certain John Harris entered an appeal from a judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle, respecting certain complaints exhibited by him and others against the Rev. Mr. Andrew Bay. As this matter cannot be issued here we appoint the Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, Roan, Elder, John Miller, Tate, Samuel Thompson, Beatty, Ramsey, Kirkpatrick, Richard Treat, Montgomery, Duffield, and William Tennent, jun'r. a committee to hear and try the merits of the cause, and to issue the whole affair, and to take what methods they may think proper thereto. And that they meet the first day of August, at eleven o'clock, at Deer Creek meeting-house, and that Mr. Montgomery open the committee. Ordered, that the moderator and as many of the members of New Castle Presbytery as conveniently can, attend the committee.

The Synod considering the distressed condition of the frontiers, the calamities of an Indian war, and the withholding the influences of the Divine Spirit in a great degree from most of our churches, do agree to observe the second Thursday of June throughout our bounds as a day of fasting and prayer, that

we may humble ourselves before Almighty God, deprecate his displeasure, and implore the out-pouring of his Holy Spirit.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday in May next, at ten o'clock, to meet at the first Presbyterian church in Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1765.

Philadelphia, May 15*th*, 1765.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the Presbytery of Hanover, the Rev. Mr. John Todd.

Of the Presbytery of Lewestown, the Rev. Messrs. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, John Harris, Joseph Montgomery, and Jacob Ker.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle, the Rev. Messrs. John Rogers, John Blair, Adam Boyd, Alexander McDowal, William McKennan.

Of the Presbytery of Donegall, the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Tate, Robert Smith, Sampson Smith.

Of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, John Brainerd, Charles Beatty, Daniel Lawrence, Benjamin Chestnut, William Ramsey, John Griffith, John Clark.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, the Rev. Messrs. Robert Cross, Francis Alison, John Ewing, John Simonton, James Latta.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Finley, Elihu Spencer, Benjamin Hait, William Kirkpatrick, John Hannah, Amos Thompson, Enoch Green.

Of the Presbytery of New York, the Rev. Messrs. A. Horton, Benjamin Woodroff, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Treat, James Caldwell, Nathan Ker.

Of the Presbytery of Suffolk, the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Lewis and William Mills.

Elders: Messrs. Gill, Belcher, Barker, John Maxfield, William Skirvin, Jerome Duchane, James Anderson, Hugh Wilson, John Wigton, John Walter, John Wallace, Thomas McKean, William Allen, Nehemiah Baldwin, Garret Noel, Samuel Woodroff, Joseph Akin.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Guild, McKnight, McCrea, Reed, William Tennent, Job Prudden, Thomas Smith.

Of Suffolk Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Prime, White, Buel, Barker, Brown, Talmage, Paine, Reeve, Occum, and Goldsmith.

Of Donegall Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Elder, Thompson, Steel, Rowan, Hogg, Duffield, Strain, McMordie, Beard, Hunt.

Of Hanover Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Black, Craig, Brown, Patillo, McCadden, Waddel, Rice.

Of Lewes Presbytery, absent, Mr. Charles Tennent.

Of New York Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Pierson, Jones, Green, Darby, Richards, Roe, Elmure, Packhurst, Moffat, Brush, Tuttle, Peppard, Simon Horton, Knox, and Malby.

Of New Castle Presbytery, absent, Messrs. Hutchinson, James Finley, Carmichael, and Sterling.

Of Philadelphia first Presbytery, Nehemiah Greenman.

The moderator opened the Synod with a sermon from Tit. iii. 8.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. John Miller was chosen moderator, and, having received the usual charge, took the chair.

Mr. John Ewing was chosen clerk, and Mr. Kirkpatrick for his assistant.

The reasons of the absence of Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Hunter, Hannah, Chesnut, and of the whole second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and of Messrs. Boyd, Blair, McDowal, Sampson Smith, Miller, Wilson, Harris, Todd, from our last Synod, were sustained.

Mr. Bay was desired to give his reasons in writing to the Synod, for his absence since the year 1758, to-morrow morning.

Mr. Tate excused for not attending last year.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia report that the Rev. Gilbert Tennent is dead since our last.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that they have ordained Messrs. James Lyon and John Roxborough to the work of the ministry, and that they have licensed Simon Williams.

The Presbytery of New York report, that they have ordained the Rev. Mr. Francis Peppard to the work of the ministry; and that the Rev. Mr. Enos Airs is dead since our last; and that the Rev. Mr. Kettletas has withdrawn from this body.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the work of the ministry Mr. Benjamin Goldsmith.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have deposed Mr. Andrew Sterling and licensed Mr. Samuel Blair.

Donegall Presbytery report, that they licensed Mr. Robert Cooper to preach the gospel.

Lewes Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. Alexander Huston, who, being present, took his seat in the Synod; and that they have licensed Mr. Thomas McCrackan.

Hanover Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. David Rice, and licensed Mr. James Creswell.

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they licensed Mr. James Leng to preach the gospel in the year 1764.

The Synod appoints for a committee of overtures, the Rev. Messrs. Tate, Todd, Wilson, Rodgers, Lawrence, Latta, Hoit, McWhorter, and Mills; Elders John Maxwell, Nehemiah Baldwine, and John Wigton, to meet at six o'clock to-morrow morning, and by adjournments, from time to time, at this house.

Ordered, That the Presbytery book of New Brunswick be examined by Messrs. Caldwell and Beatty; that of Donegall by Messrs. Ramsey and Blair; that of York by Messrs. Lewis and James Finley; that of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia by Messrs. McDowal and Horton.

The Presbytery books of Suffolk, Lewes, and Hanover, are not here.

The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, appropriated for the education of poor and pious youth, brought in a state of their accounts since the year 1758, which is as follows:

1758, Nov. 23.	Paid by the treasurer to Mr. William Tennent for the use of Mr. Leslie, - - -	£13	0	0
	For Mr. Carmichael, - - - - -	14	15	1
1759, Nov. 23.	To Mr. Carmichael, - - - - -	10	00	0
1760, June 11.	To President Davies, for the use of Mr. Blair,	20	00	0
1761, Aug. 3.	To Mr. Rosborough, per order, - - -	30	00	0
1762, May 25.	To do. per order, - - -	14	00	0
1763, Aug. 26.	To Mr. Robert Cooper, per order, - - -	20	00	0
1764, July 5.	To do. per order, - - -	13	00	0
Nov. 13.	To Samuel Leak, per order, - - - -	40	00	0
		£174	15	1

Per Contra.

1758, Oct.	By interest in hand, - - - - - -	£27	15	1
1762, July 2.	By cash returned by Mr. Leslie, - -	13	00	0
1765, Jan. 26.	By do. per do. - - -	12	00	0
Oct.	By interest on the capital, £500, from Oct. 1758, at 6 per cent. till Oct. 1764	180	00	0
	Total credit, - - - - - - -	232	15	1
	Paid, - - - - - - - -	174	15	1
	Balance, - - - - - - - -	£58	00	0

The Synod appoint Dr. Finley and Messrs. William Tennent, John Guild, Brainerd, Blair, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, Beatty, and Treat, to be a committee to dispose of the balance of said fund, which may be in their hands September next, and they are to meet at Princeton the third Tuesday of August next.

The Synod appoint for their commission the ensuing year, Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, Beatty, Ewing, Dr. Finley, Blair, Boyd, Tate, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Guild, Azarias Horton, Brown, Spencer, Brainerd, Rodgers, Hunter, McDowal, and Jones, with the moderator; elders John Wallace, Samuel Woodroff, Garret Noel, Jerome Duchane, and John Maxwell; thirteen of whom, including the moderator, shall be a quorum; but if the moderator die, or be absent, the first on the roll mentioned in the minute, shall have power to call the commission and to preside.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

16th May, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to their adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

With the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Carmichael, Charles Tennent, William Tennent, jun., Beard, James Finley, Rowan, Strain, and Steel: elders William McConkey, Walter Stewart, David Patten, Alexander McClure, Francis Alexander. Mr. Duffield was also present.

Mr. McMordie is come, and the reasons of his absence last year were sustained.

Mr. Bay brought in the reasons of his absence from Synod since the year 1758, and the Synod earnestly recommend it to him to be more punctual in future attendance upon the judicatures of this church.

The committee of correspondence with the foreign churches did no business by reason of the few members attending.

The Synod appoint Dr. Alison, Dr. Finley, and Messrs. Treat, McDowal, and Beatty, to prepare a plan of correspondence to be laid before the Synod as soon as convenient.

The several Presbyteries are desired to lay before the Synod the account of the money they have collected for the Indian school to-morrow afternoon.

Mr. Brainerd is appointed to receive the money in the hands of the trustees of New Jersey College for Indian affairs for the ensuing year, as an addition to his salary.

Mr. Caldwell fulfilled appointments under the direction of the Hanover Presbytery.

Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter fulfilled their mission to the southward. Mr. McWhorter's pulpit was supplied during his absence, and the Presbytery of Brunswick were satisfied with the care taken to supply Mr. Spencer's people.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

With the Rev. Mr. John Elder, and Henry Knox, his elder.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison, Dr. Finley, and Messrs. Treat, Beatty, Wallace, and Woodroff, be a committee to converse with Mr. Spencer, and Mr. McWhorter concerning the expenses of their mission, and make report to the Synod to-morrow morning, that the Synod may be able to judge what they should do further both for the said missionaries, and for the settlement of gospel ministers in Carolina.

Messrs. Blair and McDowal are appointed to draw up an answer to the fourth query under our consideration, to be submitted to the judgment of the Synod to-morrow morning

The affair of Psalmody is next to be considered.

Mr. Hunt is now come, with his elder, Francis Armstrong.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

17th of May, at nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Gilbert Belcher Parker is gone home.

The committee appointed to converse with Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter request time till Tuesday morning for further conversation with them.

The Synod finding some obscurity in the answer given last year to the fourth query, (*vid. p.* 337,) they have agreed to explain it further in the following words:

It is undoubtedly the right of Presbyteries to converse with any probationer, or minister from foreign parts, as far as they may find it necessary to give them satisfaction, and not receive him implicitly on a certificate, however fair and regular, together with his general profession of adopting the Westminster Confession and Catechisms. But if such probationer, or minister, shall come from a church or judicature generally suspected, or known to be erroneous, or lax and negligent with respect to the moral conduct or piety of their candidates, or members; or if they shall come from any number of ministers who may convene without any regular constitution, merely for the purpose of licensing or ordaining particular persons; in that case a certificate from such a judicature, and such a general profession of the party's adopting the Confession of Faith, is still less satisfactory, and renders it highly necessary for the Presbytery to which application shall be made, to be more particular and exact in examining the principles of such a probationer, or minister, before they admit him, or employ him in their bounds.

The affair of psalmody being resumed, Dr. Finley and Mr. McDowell are appointed to draw up a minute relating to that affair, before our next.

An appeal from the judgment of Donegall Presbytery concerning the mode of setting elders apart to their office came under consideration, and the Synod appoint the clerk to draw up a minute concerning it, to be laid before our Synod at their next meeting.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The clerk according to appointment brought in the following minute, which was approved:

The Synod having heard the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, in April, 1761, concerning the mode of setting elders apart to their office in one

of the Presbyterian churches in Carlisle, together with the reasons of the appeal to the Synod from said judgment, do, upon the whole, approve of the Presbytery's judgment, and also of their caution to prevent any bad consequences that might arise from a deviation from that mode which has been commonly used in this church, and which is highly proper on such occasions, although we wish that they had expressed their caution in stronger terms. We judge that the elders chosen at that time are clothed with sufficient authority to act in the office of elders in the church, as they actually acquiesced in the election of the people, and in their appointment to the office; and we judge that the consent of the persons to undertake the office should be necessarily obtained. And though it appears it was substantially obtained in the present case, yet we are of opinion that it had been more eligible, and more for the peace and edification of the church, if their public and explicit consent to undertake and execute that office had been taken in the face of the congregation. And we hope that the Presbytery will observe their own directions for the future.

The account of money collected for the Indian school further deferred.

The committee according to appointment brought in a minute respecting psalmody, which being read and amended, is as follows:

After some consideration of the query concerning the use of Dr. Watts's imitation of the Psalms, the Synod judged it best, in present circumstances, only to declare that they look on the inspired Psalms in Scripture, to be proper matter to be sung in Divine worship, according to their original design and the practice of the Christian churches, yet will not forbid those to use the imitation of them whose judgment and inclination lead them to do so.

Mr. Adam Boyd had leave to go home.

A reference from the Presbytery of New Castle was brought into the Synod, requesting them to give their judgment, whether the Rev. Mr. John Rodgers should be removed to New York, agreeable to the call of that congregation. After hearing what the commissioners, both from St. George's and from New York, had to offer on that occasion, the Synod adjourned till nine o'clock tomorrow morning, and concluded with prayer.

18*th of May. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Messrs. William Tennent, senior, James Finley, Thomas Lewis, Nathan Kerr, and William Tennent, junior, beg leave to enter their dissent from the judgment of the Synod concerning the judgment of Donegall Presbytery with respect to the setting elders apart for their office.

The affair of Mr. Rodgers's removal to New York was resumed, and before the Synod entered on the consideration thereof it was agreed unanimously, solemnly to call on God by prayer for light and direction to issue this important affair. After the arguments for and against Mr. Rodgers's removal were heard fully, and with great attention, it was put to the vote, and carried by a great majority, that he shall be removed; and accordingly the Synod declare, that his relation to the congregation of St. George's is dissolved; and they exhort that congregation to attend to the reasons and necessity hereof, and to behave as Christians under this dispensation.

Dr. Finley and Mr. Harris have leave to go home.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, A. M., on Monday next. Concluded with prayer.

20*th of May, at ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. John Montgomery, Mr. Steel's elder, is now come.

Having considered the collection of money for the Indian school, it was

agreed to defer the final settlement of that business until the committee, appointed to converse with Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter, bring in their report.

At the request of the Rev. Mr. Rodgers, and of the congregation of St. George's, Mr. Spencer is appointed to supply that congregation four weeks before Mr. Rodgers removes from them.

The committee for overtures introduced the following calls and supplications, viz. a call for the Rev. Mr. Spencer from Cathy's Settlement and Fourth Creek, which was presented to him; also a supplication for supplies from the inhabitants of North Carolina, living between the waters of Yadkins and Catabaw Rivers, and particularly for the removal of Mr. Spencer and Mr. McWhorter to settle among them; and two other supplications from the congregations of Bethel and Poplar Tent, in Mecklenburg county, in the same colony, for supplies; a supplication was also brought in from the united congregations of New Providence and the Six Mile Spring, in North Carolina, for supplies, and the countenance of the Synod for settling gospel ministers among them; another also, from Hawfield and Little River, in the same colony, for supplies; likewise a supplication for supplies from Long Lanes, in South Carolina.

A call for the Rev. Mr. McWhorter from Hopewell and Centre congregations, in North Carolina, was brought in by the committee of overtures, but the Synod apprehending that some other persons may be more conveniently sent to North Carolina, did not present the call to him.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

In consequence of sundry supplications from North Carolina for supplies, the Synod appoint Messrs. Nathan Kerr, George Duffield, William Ramsey, David Caldwell, James Latta, and Robert McMordie, to go there as soon as they can conveniently, and each of them to tarry half a year in these vacant congregations, as prudence may direct. And the moderator and clerk are ordered to give proper certificates to the aforesaid gentlemen; and the respective Presbyteries are to make provision for the pulpits of the settled ministers. The Presbytery of Suffolk are to supply Mr. Kerr's congregation four Sabbaths, of which Mr. Mills is to notify the Presbytery.

A paper containing an appeal of the people of New Castle and Christine Bridge, from a judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle respecting a call to Mr. Magaw; and a complaint against said Presbytery in that affair, was brought in by the committee of overtures and read; and having heard the minutes of that Presbytery read, and what the commissioners had to offer on that subject, adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine of the clock.

Concluded with prayer.

21 *day of May, the Synod met at nine o'clock. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The affair of New Castle and Christine congregations resumed, and after mature deliberation it was agreed, that Messrs. Montgomery, Wilson, and Caldwell, be a committee to prepare an overture to be submitted to the judgment of the Synod, to determine that affair at our next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till six o'clock, A. M., to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

22d day of May, at six of the clock, A. M. The Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of New Castle and Christine Bridge resumed. The committee which was appointed brought in an overture, which being read and considered, was approved, and is as follows:

All parties being long and patiently heard, the Synod on the whole do judge, that the said Presbytery have acted a very cautious and Christian part in making such a stand against bigotry and party spirit in these congregations, and striving so long to prevent a breach of a solemn union stipulated between these societies, and therefore cannot but highly disapprove and condemn the indecent language of their appeal, and their bitter insinuations of injustice from that our worthy Presbytery. And as it appears there was at least a very considerable opposition made against presenting said call, the Presbytery might prudently delay it with a view, if possible, to obtain a greater union in Mr. Magaw, or some other person. However, as more light in the course of this trial has been thrown on that affair, than was given by the congregation to the Presbytery, it now appears the call had better be presented to Mr. Magaw. And as the Presbytery assure us that they never intended to meddle with the civil property of their meeting-houses, even in the alternative proposed to these societies, which was only for the sake of peace, we leave them to settle that matter according to their own articles of union, and to determine the qualifications of their own voters, earnestly recommending it to both parties, in the spirit of meekness, to compromise their own differences, to maintain their union inviolable, and to follow the things which make for peace and edification.

The collections for the Indian school came under consideration, and it is ordered that they who have made collections for that purpose pay the same to Mr. Ewing, before to-morrow morning, of which he is to make a report.

Nathan Kerr has leave to go home.

Ordered, That Messrs. Brainerd, Ramsey, Spencer, and Montgomery, be a committee to wait on the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, and their widows and children, at their next meeting, and to request of them such papers as may serve to give any light to the Synod concerning their power or right to concur with the corporation in the disposal of any money that may be in their hands.

Mr. Lewis had leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. John Leavit, from New England, being present, was desired to sit as a correspondent. Dr. Finley is returned.

A petition was brought in by the committee of overtures from West Nottingham, complaining that they were aggrieved by a late order of the Synod which removed them from the care of New Castle Presbytery, and put them under the care of that of Donegall, inasmuch as the distance of the petitioners from the most usual places of Donegall Presbytery's meeting, and the creeks and rivers that lie between, greatly obstruct, and sometimes quite prevent their attendance on the meeting of said Presbytery; and requesting to be put under the care of New Castle Presbytery.

Their petition was granted, and said congregation is remitted to the care of New Castle Presbytery as formerly.

A petition from the Presbytery of Donegall was brought into the Synod by the committee of overtures, praying to be erected into two Presbyteries, or that

the members added to the Donegall Presbytery, when the Presbyteries were new modelled, be ordered to return to their former judicatures.

An appeal was also brought in against the vote of the Presbytery authorizing this petition to the Synod.

After hearing the Presbytery and the appellants with great deliberation, adjourned till eight o'clock, A. M., to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

23d of May, at eight o'clock, the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Baldwin and Strain had leave to go home.

The petition of the Presbytery of Donegall, and the appeal of some members were further considered, and it was agreed not to grant the petition.

The Synod having maturely considered the situatian of affairs in the Presbytery of Donegall, agreed to erect the members of that Presbytery that live on the western side of the river Susquehanna into a new Presbytery, together with the Rev. Mr. Andrew Bay, by the name of the Presbytery of Carlisle; and appoint that the first meeting be at Philadelphia the 23d day of May, 1765; and the remaining members are hereby annexed to the Presbytery of New Castle.

An appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegall, respecting Messrs. Rowan and Edmiston was brought in by Mr. Edmiston, together with a reference respecting the same affair by the Presbytery of Donegall. Also another appeal from a judgment of said Presbytery, was brought in by Mr. McMordie. The Synod considering the impossibility of determining said affairs at present, have appointed the following gentlemen a committee to issue and determine both these matters, viz: Messrs. Beatty, Brainerd, Simonton, Guild, Montgomery, Clark, Spencer, Kirkpatrick, Hait, Hannah, Green, McKnight, and Ewing, to meet at Hanover on the first Wednesday of September next; and that Mr. Ewing open the committee and that Mr. Elder give citations for evidences. It is also appointed that Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Montgomery, Beatty, Ewing, and Brainerd, be a committee to meet at Little Britain, to examine what evidences Mr. Edmiston may produce to support the charges brought against Mr. Rowan, and that both Messrs. Rowan and Edmiston attend at that place on Friday the thirtieth of August; and that the committee make a report to the committee at Hanover, and that Mr. Hunt give citations to the evidences to appear at the committee.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, the Synod met. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Baldwin, Mr. McWhorter's elder, had leave to go home.

The committee of the Synod appointed last year to meet at Deer Creek, brought in their minutes which were read. And as Mr. Bay had appealed from the judgment of that committee after he and all parties were fully heard in their own defence; the Synod appoint Messrs. Wilson, Hunter, and Kirkpatrick, a committee to bring in a judgment on the conduct of the committee at next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till eight o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

24th of May, the Synod met at eight, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee, according to appointment, brought in a minute, which being read and amended is as follows:

The Synod having carefully examined the matter of Mr. Bay's appeal from the judgment of our committee appointed last year, in consequence of an

appeal from a judgment of New Castle Presbytery that met at Deer Creek, on mature deliberation judge, that our committee have the merit of taking great pains to examine these difficult affairs, yet we cannot justify either the untender expressions relating to the Presbytery, or the severity of their judgment and censure of Mr. Bay. We rather approve of the judgment of the Presbytery, from which we judge there was no sufficient reason of an appeal. On the whole, considering the ferment of the people, the virulence of the prosecutors, and the necessity of compromising the differences of the congregations, we judge the Presbytery acted a very prudent and a Christian part, and that their exhortations were very salutary.

This judgment being read and approved, it was overtured by a member, that inasmuch as sundry matters between Mr. Bay and the people of Deer Creek still stand open, that therefore these matters should be issued by the Presbytery of New Castle, notwithstanding Mr. Bay is set off as a member of Carlisle Presbytery; in which motion the Synod concurred, and accordingly ordered the Presbytery of New Castle to issue these matters as soon as they can conveniently.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to revise the Presbytery book of New Brunswick, brought it in and it was approved. The committee appointed for revising Donegall book were prevented from revising it. The Presbytery book of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia was not put into the hands of the committee for revising it.

There is no account from Dutchess county Presbytery, whether they have regularly formed themselves according to the order of the Synod.

The committee appointed to meet with Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter, to settle with them the expense of their journey, and the losses they have sustained thereby in their affairs at home, make report, that they did meet accordingly, and an account being laid before them, they are of opinion the money they have received of the Synod's collection and otherwise, which has not been expended on their journey, should be allowed them and divided between them in proportion to the account of their expenses brought in and allowed. Mr. McWhorter returned to the Synod all the money of the Synod's collection allowed by the committee. The remaining collection in the hands of the Synod is to be disposed of according to their direction.

The Rev. Messrs. Tate, Elder, Steel, Sampson Smith, McMordie, and Beard, brought in a paper signifying that it was a difficulty to acquiesce in the regulations of yesterday respecting the alteration made in the Presbytery of Donegall, because they apprehend that no relief of their grievances is thereby afforded; that their right as members was infringed in erecting a new Presbytery out of the Donegall Presbytery, and annexing the remaining members to another Presbytery without consulting said Presbytery, or allowing them a vote in that affair; and that that Presbytery, though respectable and of long standing, was thereby abolished. When they were fully heard, and some other expedients were by them suggested, the Synod proceeded to review the affair, and seriously attended to the considerations suggested, and do judge that those brethren were so interested in the affair that they had not a right to vote, though they ought to have been consulted previous to any determination about it. As the new Presbytery will have no connection with the affairs that gave rise to their animosity, and the connections of other brethren with the remaining members, may tend to allay those prejudices which may be risen

too high to be otherwise worn off, the Synod cannot but hope, that their grievances will be found to be in a great measure relieved. And whereas the Presbytery of New Castle is now greatly diminished, the Synod conclude that no sufficient reasons are offered for altering their sentiments as to substance, and therefore still agree, that the late members of New Castle and Donegall Presbyteries to the eastward of Susquehanna, be united in one Presbytery, by the name of Lancaster Presbytery, and that they meet the 25th of May, at six o'clock in the morning, at the first Presbyterian church in this city; and that the Presbytery of Carlisle be continued.

Messrs. McDowell and Ewing dissent from the above judgment, and beg liberty to bring in their reasons, which was granted. The reasons follow:

1. Because the request of these brethren was not only entirely and absolutely refused, but their condition is rendered worse, for the new model of the Presbyteries provides no relief for any of their grievances, but leaves the same causes of uneasiness unremoved, and subjects them to many new inconveniences.

2. When the petition was refused, and the Synod proceeded to new model the Presbyteries, these brethren had a right to consult and act with them in this matter; whereas they were manifestly denied and excluded from this right, by the Synod's making one and abolishing two Presbyteries without consulting them and granting them a vote.

3. Because the Synod has abolished Donegall Presbytery in particular, without allowing one member of it to vote in the cause, and that without any sufficient reason. This procedure is injurious to Donegall Presbytery, that has been long a respectable body, and has suffered in its peaceable character only by the addition of some new members; which character we are persuaded they would soon retrieve had their petition been granted.

4. We apprehend that this act of the Synod is contrary to the declared intention of this body at the union of the Synods, and a violation of an article of that solemn agreement, where it is expressly provided, that the Presbyteries subsisting before should be united only when it was for edification.

Ordered, That Mr. Duffield produce such of the original papers of the late Donegall Presbytery, to the committee to meet at Hanover, as relate to the affairs which are committed to their determination.

The affair of the Indian school was resumed, and the Synod appointed Messrs. William Tennent, Brainerd, Montgomery, and Ewing, to consider and determine how their money in Mr. Ewing's hands shall be divided, and to what purposes it shall be applied, and to give orders to Mr. Ewing to pay the same accordingly.

The Rev. Mr. Jonathan Leavit, from New Hampshire in New England, produced to the Synod certificates of his regular standing in the gospel ministry, and having professed his desire to join with this body, after adopting the Westminster Confession of Faith, as the confession of his faith, and having promised to conform himself to the Westminster Directory for worship and government, he was received as a member of the Synod, and was advised to put himself under the care of some one of our Presbyteries.

Ordered, That a collection be made for propagating the gospel among the Indians, and for teaching their children; and that the several Presbyteries take care it be made in all their congregations, as well in those that want as in those that have settled ministers; and that each Presbytery appoint some member to bring in to next Synod a particular account how every congregation in their bounds has complied with this order.

A petition from a number of elders and gentlemen met in Philadelphia, was brought in and read, which is ordered to be kept *in retentis*, till it be further considered at our next Synod; and that the clerk transmit a copy of said paper

to each of our Presbyteries, to enable them the better to consider and carry the things proposed into execution.

Ordered, That Lewestown Presbytery supply Mr. Ramsey's congregation eight Sabbaths, Mr. James Finley and Mr. McKennan each one Sabbath, and the first Presbytery of Philadelphia the remainder of the time. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick supply Mr. Latta's pulpit sixteen Sabbaths, and the second Presbytery of Philadelphia the rest of the time. That the Presbyteries of Lancaster and Carlisle supply Mr. McMordie's pulpit and Mr. Duffield's in their absence.

The affair of the second Philadelphia Presbytery deferred.

Ordered, That the moderator give Mr. Bay a certificate, as he intends to take a journey into New England.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at New York at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

1766.

New York, May 21*st*, 1766.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: The Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, John Rodgers, Joseph Treat, Benjamin Hait, Jonathan Elmore, Benjamin Woodroff, Abner Brush, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Samuel Parkhurst, Nathan Kerr, Simon Horton, Samuel Buel, Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Talmage, William Mills, David Rose, William Tennent, Charles McKnight, Israel Reed, William Kirkpatrick, Enoch Green, Amos Thompson, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, Charles Beatty, William Hampsey, Benjamin Chesnutt, John Clark, John Ewing, Patrick Allison, John Blair, Elihu Spencer, Robert Smith, John Carmichael, Jacob Tate, John Beard, John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Joseph Montgomery, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, Andrew Bay, George Duffield, Elisha Kent, Samuel Sacket, John Smith, Eliphalet Ball, William Hanna.

Elders: Messrs. Peter V. Livingston, Nathaniel Bell, Benjamin Bunnel, John Crane, Joseph Riggs, Robert Ogden, Jeffry Smith, David Harriot, Nathaniel Scudder, Elias Bailey, James Allen, Thomas Jackson, John Maxwell, Joseph Crane, Joseph Lee, Jonathan Griffin, Philip Edsal, and William Humphreys.

Ministers absent: The Rev. Messrs. Nehemiah Greenman, John Griffiths, John Brainerd, Alexander McDowell, John Elder, Sampson Smith, James Finley, William McKennan, Robert McMordie, James Hunt, John Rowan, Charles Tennent, John Harris, Abner Reeve, John Moffet, John Maltby, Hugh Knox, Aaron Richards, Moses Tuttle, John Darby, Jacob Green, Francis Peppard, Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, Nehemiah Barker, James Brown, Thomas Paine, Ezra Reeve, Benjamin Goldsmith, Samson Occum, James McCrea, Samuel Kennedy, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, John Guild, Job Pruden, John Rosborough, Dr. Samuel Finley, John Strain, John Steel, Samuel Thompson, John Hogg, John Slemons, Robert Cooper, Robert Cross, Dr. Francis Alison, John Simonton, James Latta, Samuel Dunlap, Solomon Mead. Absent: The whole Presbytery of Hanover.

The Presbytery of Duchess county being present, report, that they have complied with the stipulations of the Synod in the year 1763, and have adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, together with the Directory for worship and discipline, according to the usage of this Synod as appears from their minutes, which were produced and read; certain mem-

bers of said Presbytery being present, were allowed to take their seats accordingly.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. John Miller, our last year's moderator, with a sermon from Heb. xiii. 17.

There not being time to choose a moderator and clerk this evening, the Synod agreed to defer the choice until to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, 22d of May, at nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Chancey Graham is now come.

Mr. Spencer is chosen moderator for the ensuing year, who, after receiving the usual charge from the last year's moderator, took the chair. Messrs. Alexander McWhorter and Benjamin Talmage were chosen clerks.

Messrs. Robert Cross, C. J. Smith, and William Tennent, jun'r. were desired to sit as correspondents.

The reasons which Messrs. Buel, Talmage, Jones, Roe, Parkhurst, Brush, Elmore, Reed, and Horton, assigned for their absence from Synod last year, were sustained.

Mr. Wheeler Case is now come, and his elder Frederick Horn.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that the Rev. Mr. Daniel Lawrence died since our last, the 13th day of April, and further report, that they have ordained Mr. John Murray since our last Synod; but that some charges since that were laid in against him respecting his moral character, which are not yet decided by the Presbytery.

Upon the report being brought in, some difficulties arose, whether Mr. Murray should be enrolled or not. The Synod voted that the report of the Presbytery should be received, and proceed no further in the affair the present *sederunt.*

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the report of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, respecting Mr. Murray, deferred to the next *sederunt.*

New York Presbytery report that they have received Mr. Jedediah Chapman, a candidate for the work of the ministry.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that they ordained Mr. David Rose to the work of the ministry.

Lancaster Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. Samuel Blair.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. David Caldwell.

A motion being made that the minutes of the Synod's proceedings may be by the clerk copied, and sent to each Presbytery yearly, is deferred to further consideration.

It is reported by a member of this body, that the Rev. Mr. Alexander Craighead departed this life some time in March, 1766.

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained Mr. Patrick Alison, and licensed Mr. James Anderson, and Mr. James Latta, since our last.

The Presbytery of Carlisle report, that they have ordained Mr. John Slemons, and Mr. Robert Cooper, since our last.

Dutchess County Presbytery report, that since their erection into a Presby-

tery, they have received into their number Mr. William Hannah, and Mr. Dunlap; ordained Mr. Wheeler Case, and licensed Mr. John Clove.

The Synod appoints for a committee of overtures, the Rev. Messrs. Rodgers, Lewis, Sacket, Tennent, Treat, Ewing, Smith, Wilson, Duffield, Jones. Elders, P. V. B. Livingston, Joseph Rigs, Nathaniel Scudder, John Maxwell, to meet to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and by adjournment from time to time.

Ordered, That the Presbytery book of New York be examined by Mr. Hunter and Mr. Reed. The other Presbytery books are not here.

The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey, make no report of what is done, as their minutes are not here.

Appointed as a committee, Messrs. William Tennent, Guild, Brainerd, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, Beatty, Enoch Green, and Reed, to meet at Princeton, the 13th of August, to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer, then due, for the education of the poor and pious youth.

The Synod appoint for their commissioners the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, Beatty, Ewing, Dr. Finley, Blair, Boyd, Tate, Elder, Robert Smith, William Tennent, Miller, Guild, Horton, Brainerd, Rodgers, Hunter, McDowell, Jones, with the moderator. Elders, P. V. B. Livingston, Robert Ogden, Nathaniel Scudder, Joseph Rigs, John Maxwell; thirteen of whom to be a quorum. But if the moderator die, or be absent, the first on the roll mentioned in the minute shall have power to call the commissioners and to preside.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 23d, nine o'clock, met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the report of the first Philadelphia Presbytery, concerning Mr. Murray, further deferred.

The Synod appoint Mr. Ewing to be our stated clerk.

The motion which was made for the minutes of the Synod to be transcribed and sent to each Presbytery, resumed; and, after due consideration, the Synod appoint that all our minutes from the union, be transcribed by the stated clerk, and yearly transcribed and transmitted to each Presbytery in three months after the session of the Synod, and that the clerk shall be allowed twenty shillings provincial currency, by each Presbytery, for his annual labour. The Synod appoint, in order to defray the expenses of these copies, that there be a collection in all our congregations, or any other method that may appear convenient to particular members, for this purpose and other public uses.

Dr. Alison is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner sustained. His elder, Mr. William Humphreys, is also come.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Dr. Alison, Messrs. Blair, Beatty, P. V. B. Livingston, a committee to prepare a plan of correspondence with foreign churches, and to bring it in as soon as possible.

Messrs. Kerr, Duffield, David Caldwell, and Mr. McMordie, who were appointed to go and supply in North Carolina, complied with their appointments. Mr. Ramsey, who was also appointed, did not go, and his reasons for not going were sustained.

Mr. Leavit, who joined Lancaster Presbytery, according to order of Synod, has been at his request dismissed from them, to return to New England.

The consideration of the petition from a number of elders and gentlemen in Philadelphia deferred.

The order of Synod, that Lancaster Presbytery should supply Mr. Duffield's pulpit in his absence, complied with.

At Mr. Talmage's request, he was released from the business of clerk, and Mr. Wilson is chosen in his place.

The reasons why Mr. Latta did not fulfil his appointments in Carolina, being given by some members in his absence, were sustained.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the affair respecting Mr. Murray is further deferred.

The committee for settling a plan of correspondence with foreign churches are appointed to meet on Saturday afternoon.

The Rev. Mr. Graham had leave to go home.

Mr. Brainerd is appointed to receive the money in the hands of the trustees of New Jersey College for Indian affairs, for the current year, as an addition to his salary.

A motion was made by some members for a review of the Synod's judgment last year, respecting an affair in New Castle and Christiana congregations. After having much conversation on the subject, it was determined by vote to refer the whole affair to next Synod, when all parties may be heard on their application.

The committee appointed last Synod met at Hanover generally, and the reasons of such as were absent were sustained. Whereupon the Synod proceeded to read the minutes of said committee, especially the several judgments on the various matters which came before them. Then Mr. Duffield offered an appeal, drawn up by Mr. Rowan, from their judgment, which was received and read.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

May 24th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. Rowan's appeal being resumed, the Synod resolved to defer it till their next meeting, as he was not present to prosecute it.

Mr. Murray's affair was resumed, and after some conversation was further deferred. Mr. James Allen, Mr. Ewing's elder, is now come.

A motion was made concerning last Synod's minute, respecting the mission of Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter, to have it reconsidered, and after conversing on the subject, the Synod order certain sums of money in the hands of Messrs. Ewing, Montgomery, and Caldwell, be put into the hands of Mr. McWhorter, that he may be enabled to refund to Mr. Spencer the sum of thirty-two pounds, which appears to be the balance due to him according to the stipulation of the Synod.

Adjourned to Monday morning, ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 26th, A. M. Met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A motion made by Mr. Duffield respecting a minute of last year, deferred.

The consideration of uniting the two Philadelphia Presbyteries was resumed, and after some discourse, it was determined to discuss it next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Several papers relating to Mr. Murray's affairs were read, but the Presbytery to which he belongs pleading a right to issue said matter, previous to the determination of the Synod, it was referred to their further examination.

The affair of uniting the two Philadelphia Presbyteries, after some consideration, was deferred till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 27, at nine o'clock, A. M. met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of uniting the two Philadelphia Presbyteries was again resumed, and after some further discourse on the subject, it came to be voted whether they should be continued separate or not, and it was carried in the affirmative. Some members desired liberty to enter their dissent, which was granted. Their dissent was brought in, and is as follows:

It is with very sensible regret and great reluctance, that we, whose names are subscribed, declare in so strong a manner our disapprobation of the Reverend Synod's determination, with respect to the continuance of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia; a step, we confess, ought not to be taken except in matters of very great importance, and where justice, or the edification of the church are plainly interested. But such we do not take the present case to be, and therefore we do enter our dissent from the aforesaid determination: Because,

1st. It carries in it the obvious appearance of disunion, and seems to indicate a temper of a schismatical tendency, however it may be suppressed for the present. It will also be likely to perpetuate party distinctions in reference to candidates licensed by the respective Presbyteries.

2dly. While it is the sense of the Synod, that it is the duty of Presbyteries to inquire into candidates' experimental acquaintance with religion, as a Scriptural and rational means of obtaining satisfaction as to their qualification for preaching the gospel, it involves the Synod in a self-contradiction to erect a Presbytery who expressly refuses it; and thus, this article of examination shall, as to them, be laid aside, which tends to introduce a general neglect thereof.

3dly. While nothing is imposed upon persons in point of practice, which they in their consciences judge sinful, and they are not restrained from doing their duty, the rights of conscience are not violated, though (they being a minority,) a matter in judicature shall be carried against them by vote. Therefore it is vain to urge the rights of conscience in such cases; and for any to signify that they will not be subject, even in such cases, to the regulations of the Synod, but if contradicted will violently break off, is to prefer the private rights of individuals to the public rights, and will destroy all governing authority in the body.

4thly. It is a very bad precedent of most mischievous consequence, which may be plead by others for the division of Presbyteries, and by that means congregations now united may again be divided, and the regular formation of new societies prevented or greatly marred.

William Tennent, Charles McKnight, John Blair, Andrew Bay, William Tennent, jun'r. Azel Roe, John Carmichael, Robert Smith, Jacob Kerr, David Rose, Nathan Kerr, Simon Horton.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan of correspondence with foreign churches, brought in one which is as follows:

1. That the committee during the session of Synod bring in a copy of a letter or letters to the churches, to be read and approved of by them.

2. That if there be occasion to write to any of the churches at any other time, three at least of the committee shall prepare and send letters, copies of which shall be laid before the Synod at their next meeting.

3. That letters received by the committee from any of the churches be annually laid before the Synod, as well as the answers given to any of them.

4. That the churches with whom we shall correspond be Holland, Geneva, Switzerland, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland or their commission, the Synods of seceding ministers, the ministers in and about London, the General Synod of Ireland, and ministers of Dublin, New England, and the churches in South Carolina.

The Synod appoint Dr. Alison, Messrs. Richard Treat, Rodgers, Ewing, McWhorter, Joseph Treat, Beatty, and V. Livingston, as a committee to correspond with the foreign churches for the ensuing year, to meet this evening at seven o'clock.

The address of the lay elders and gentlemen, proposed last year to the Synod, was resumed, and a committee of Messrs. Blair, Kent, Caldwell, Duffield, and Bay, with elders, Messrs. Scudder, Ogden, Jackson, and Maxwell, were appointed to meet to-morrow morning at six o'clock, to prepare some overture relative to this affair.

From last year's minutes some affairs respecting Mr. Brainerd's mission to the Indians, with some papers now received from him, were taken under consideration; and it is ordered, that what moneys have been collected last year for this mission be put into the hands of Mr. Treat, jun'r. an account of which he is desired to give the Synod to-morrow.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer

P. M. three o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A motion was made by Mr. Beard and Mr. Tate, for a review of last year's minute respecting the new modelling of the late New Castle and Donegall Presbyteries, which was taken under consideration; and after hearing some reasons offered by these members.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

May 28th, A. M. nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Montgomery and his elder have leave to go home.

Mr. Treat produced to Synod an account of moneys he received according to an order of yesterday, which is deferred to further consideration.

The motion of Mr. Beard and Mr. Tate was resumed, and after these members had been fully heard, as also Mr. Smith and Mr. Duffield, these four members resigned what they thought was their right to judge in this affair, left it to the Synod and voluntarily withdrew. After some discourse on this matter, it came to be voted whether the minute of last year on that affair should be reversed with this limitation, that the Carlisle Presbytery should be continued in their present state: and it was carried in the negative by a great majority.

Adjourned to three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

P. M. Three o'clock, the Synod met according to appointment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The disposal of the money in Mr. Treat's hands deferred.

Mr. Tate's and Mr. Beard's motion resumed, and after some reasonings on the subject, and some expedients proposed, it was voted whether Donegall Presbytery as it existed before last Synod, (those members excepted who were set off to Carlisle Presbytery,) be erected into a Presbytery under the name of Donegall Presbytery or not; it was carried in the negative.

Another expedient proposed was, whether they be united to the second Philadelphia Presbytery for a year, until the matter be further considered; it was voted in the negative by a great majority.

Some members hereupon begged leave to dissent and others to protest against these votes and proceedings, and beg leave to bring in their reasons, which was granted. Their reasons are as follow:

We are obliged, (though with grief,) to enter our dissent from, and declare our protest against the conduct and votes of this judicature, in the affairs respecting the late Donegall Presbytery, for such reasons as these:

1st. Because our distressed brethren always declared a scruple of conscience as the foundation of their petition and behaviour, viz: That they could not in conscience submit to the examination of the hearts or experiences of candidates in the way voted by the Synod, as they esteemed it contrary to the word of God, to common sense, and the uniform practice of the Protestant churches: consequently whether well or ill informed, it was a matter which could not be voted away.

2dly. Because it appeared very untender and unbrotherly to deny that these members could be conscientious in the affair, when they declared they were so: we cannot judge what matters will affect other men's consciences.

3dly. Because even the smallest matter, if imposed against the rights of conscience, obliges the injured to leave the communion. To exclude men from exercising the power of ordination, unless they submit to it in a way contrary to their judgment is such an imposition. And therefore the schism in consequence hereof, is to be attributed to the imposers and not to those who are obliged to withdraw.

4thly. Because by the spirit of the plan of union, Presbyteries were not to be joined unless for edification, but this modelling evidently tends to ruin and destruction.

5thly. Because the Synod seem to act too arbitrary a part by forcing members into any Presbytery without their own consent, and the consent of their congregations.

6thly. Because these violent and precipitate votes have rent the Church of Christ, (alas too much divided already,) to the joy of our enemies, the grief and distress of all sincere Christians, and the reproach of the Christian name; when only exchanging a member or two in two Presbyteries, might have prevented the breach.

These reasons, together with those entered by two members against a judgment of the last Synod, respecting the alteration of Presbyteries, prevail with us to enter this our protest, whereby we exonerate our consciences in order to continue in your communion, and declare before God and the world, that we are free from all blame in this whole procedure.

MATTHEW WILSON, JOHN EWING, PATRICK ALISON, FRANCIS ALISON.

In consequence of the above votes, Mr. Joseph Tate and Mr. John Beard brought in a declinature, which is as follows;

To the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia:

We, the subscribers, humbly beg leave to show, that though we much desire to be in union and friendship with this reverend body, and would not knowingly be the real authors of any discord in the church of Christ, yet the determinations of the Synod consequent on our petition presented last year, and again to this present meeting, seem so grievous and oppressive to us, and threatening to the credit and interest of religion, that we find ourselves obliged to declare to this Rev. Synod, that we cannot submit to them, that we hereby decline all authority and jurisdiction of this body, and that no judgment or determination thereof shall bind us, or affect our persons or ministry until these differences of sentiment be removed by better light, and satisfactory means be found to reconcile and unite us with this reverend body again. And as we earnestly desire and pray for this, we reserve to ourselves, and expect the liberty at any time, respectfully to offer such proposals as we may think likely to answer that end, and upon our satisfying the Reverend Synod, or they us, to return to our enjoyment of our privileges with them. And in the mean time we shall endeavour to carry respectfully towards this Reverend Synod, avoiding whatever might unnecessarily inflame unchristian passions, or tend to hinder the influence of our brethren in their labours in the gospel, and expect to be mutually treated by our brethren as ministers of Christ.

The reasons inducing us to this mournful step are principally such as these:

1. That the determinations mentioned had not the least apparent tendency to relieve, but seem rather calculated to increase our grievances, and only to suppress our complaints and influence in judicatures together.

2. We petitioned only for a thing lawful and often precedented in Presbyterian Synods, and which was wisely requested by the Synod of New York, and stipulated for in our plan of union; and yet we think ourselves hereupon treated so untenderly, so arbitrarily, and so contrary to the love and friendship that is expected by the distressed, that had the matter denied us even been of little importance, yet it seems inconsistent with our duty and safety to own and be subject to a jurisdiction so exercised.

3. We cannot but observe the proceedings of this reverend Synod in this as well as in many other affairs, appear plainly calculated to bear down one part of this united Synod, and suppress their influence contrary to the equality and right of members, and to the nature and whole professed design of our union.

We pray and crave that this our declinature, and these our reasons, be entered in the records of this Synod, earnestly wishing that the Lord may yet rectify all hurtful mistakes and heal all discords among us; and in the mean time, as we cannot enjoy the benefit of the plan of union in peace, and according to the true intent thereof, we declare ourselves to be the Presbytery of Donegall, and members of the Synod of Philadelphia, as before the conjunction of the two Synods.

Signed by us, in our own names and in the names of our brethren,

JOSEPH TATE,
JOHN BEARD.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the address of the lay elders was brought in and is as follows:

The Synod taking into their serious consideration several matters suggested to them in an address and representation from a number of lay elders and others of the Presbyterian denomination, occasionally assembled at Philadelphia, do, after mature deliberation, look upon said affairs to be of much importance, and deserving the strictest regard as very useful, salutary measures,

whereby many pernicious evils may be prevented and various great advantages procured; and accordingly order said regulations as now amended to be entered in our minutes, and do most earnestly recommend to all congregations under our care, the strict observation of the same; and the Synod appoint the clerk to transmit, as soon as he conveniently can, a copy of this minute, together with a copy of said regulations, to the moderator of each Presbytery in our bounds, to be by said Presbyteries communicated to the people under their care respectively, and that all proper pains be taken by each Presbytery to have said measures put in execution, viz:

1st. That in every congregation a committee be appointed, who shall twice in every year collect the minister's stipend, and lay his receipts before the Presbytery preceding the Synod; and at the same time, that ministers give an account of their diligence in visiting and catechizing their people.

2d. The Synod recommends that a glebe, with a convenient house and necessary improvements, be provided for every minister.

3d. That the church sessions and committees appointed, take special care of their poor and distressed widows and orphans, and administer to them all the relief and assistance they can.

4th. The Synod recommend to the church sessions and committees aforesaid, that they endeavour by their advice and influence to prevent all unnecessary lawsuits, and if possible to have all differences of a civil nature decided by arbitration.

5th. The Synod enjoin that exact registers of births, baptisms, marriages, and burials, be regularly kept in each congregation.

6th. That special care be taken of the principles and characters of schoolmasters, that they teach the Westminster Catechism and Psalmody; and that the ministers, church sessions, and foresaid committees, (where they consistently can,) visit the schools and see these things be done; and where schools are composed of different denominations, that said committees and sessions invite proper persons of said denominations, to join with them in such visitations.

7th. That as the too great use of spirituous liquors at funerals in some parts of the country, is risen to such an height as greatly to endanger the morals of many, and is the cause of much scandal, the Synod earnestly enjoin, that the several sessions and committees shall take the most effectual methods to correct these mischiefs, and discountenance by their example and influence all approaches to such practices, and all ostentatious and expensive parades, so inconsistent with such mortifying and distressing occasions.

8th. The Synod recommends, that every congregation endeavour to form a society or societies, for the reformation of manners within their respective bounds.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow.

May 29, *A. M. nine o'clock. The Synod met according to appointment, and post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The consideration of the disposal of the money in the hands of Mr. Treat deferred.

An overture in consequence of yesterday's votes respecting last Synod's modelling Presbyteries, was brought in by Mr. Richard Treat and read: As a good expedient for the peace of this body, and the satisfaction of the brethren complaining, that the late Presbytery of Donegall be restored to their former state as before the last Synod, with the members settled within their bounds since that time.

The Synod agreed to this overture, and accordingly we revive and restore

the late Presbytery of Donegall, and appoint that their first meeting be at Carlisle the fourth Tuesday in June, 1766; and also, that the Presbytery of New Castle be restored, with all the members since settled in their former bounds, and to meet under that name, according to their last adjournments when under the name of Lancaster; and that such candidates as have begun their trials in the late Presbytery of Lancaster finish their trials with the Presbytery of New Castle; and the Synod likewise think it proper to take this opportunity to declare, that though the dissatisfied brethren inform them, that from their apprehensions, the acts of the Synod complained of were unconstitutional, and that they thought it would be inconsistent to sit as members of their respective Presbyteries, the Synod cannot see the consequence, yet as these brethren appear to have acted according to their light, they pass no censure upon their conduct, but still must express their censure, that they should have acted a part so liable to be thought of an hurtful tendency.

Mr. Miller had leave to go home.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

P. M., three o clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine New York Presbytery book made their remarks, and the book is approved.

The consideration of the disposal of the money in the hands of Mr. Treat, deferred.

Ordered, That an attested copy of the minutes relative to the request of Messrs. Tate and Beard, be transmitted to them by the hands of Dr. Alison.

An appeal was brought in by the committee of overtures from a judgment of the Suffolk Presbytery, and taken under consideration; and, after hearing the appellant and Presbytery, it was ordered that Messrs. Rodgers, Tennent, Horton, Jones, McWhorter, Hait, Simon Horton, and Smith, be a committee to meet, with each an elder, at Huntingdon, the first Wednesday in August, to try and issue the whole affair; and Mr. Rodgers is appointed to open the committee with a sermon.

Mr. Samuel Blair is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained.

An overture was made by Dr. Alison, that an address should be made to our Sovereign, on the joyful occasion of the repeal of the Stamp Act, and thereby a confirmation of our liberties, at the same time proposing the copy of such an address for examination; which was read and approved by the Synod.

A call for the settlement of Mr. Kerr among them was brought in from Steel Creek and New Providence, which was read.

Also a supplication for supplies from Long Canes, in South Carolina, was read and laid on the table.

Another call also from Sugar Creek and Rocky River, for the Rev. Mr. Nathan Kerr, was brought in and read.

A petition was also read from Bullock Creek, Turkey Creek, and Broad River, for further supplies.

Also a supplication from Little River Settlement, in South Carolina; and another from Briar Creek, in Georgia, for supplies, were read.

Another call for Mr. Kerr in this settlement was presented and read, from the united congregation of Centre and Hopewell, in Carolina.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 30th, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A motion was made that every member of this judicature take subscriptions, or make collections as he shall find most expedient, in his congregation, or the neighbouring vacancies, to raise a fund for the propagation and support of the gospel in such parts as cannot otherwise enjoy it; which, after some discourse on the subject, was ordered accordingly. The subscriptions, or collections for which purpose, are to be laid before next Synod, by the moderator, or clerk of each Presbytery; and the several Presbyteries are hereby ordered to see this determination put into execution.

The affair of Mr. Brainerd's school resumed.

The Synod resolve to support the Indian school under Mr. Brainerd's care, and for that purpose order such members as have not this last year made collections, immediately to collect and transmit to the hands of Mr. Joseph Treat, or Mr. Ewing, to be paid to Mr. Brainerd; and that the money now in Mr. Treat's hands be paid Mr. Brainerd as soon as possible, which sum appears to be twenty-one pounds, sixteen shillings, and one penny.

Ordered, The several calls mentioned last *sederunt* be presented to Mr. Kerr, to be by him considered and answered as soon as possible, which answers are to be given in to the Presbytery of New York.

A motion was made that the address to his Majesty be transcribed in two fair copies, to be sent different ways, and inclosed in a letter from this Synod to Dr. Chandler, constituting him our agent to present our address; the expenses to be paid by this body.

A memorial was presented by Mr. C. T. Smith, representing the necessity and importance of sending some suitable missionaries to preach at Williamsburg; as also a supplication for supplies to be sent to Carolina, and that he himself be authorized to itinerate again in those parts.

Also several members verbally supplicated that supplies be also sent to Wilmington and Newbern.

A motion was made in behalf of the second Philadelphia congregation, to furnish them with supplies immediately.

A motion was also made in favour of Bladensburg, and Upper Marlborough, in Maryland, to obtain them supplies.

Suffolk Presbytery desired leave to ordain two candidates, Mr. Elam Potter, and Mr. Isaac Lewes, *sine titulo*, in order to be sent to the southward when they shall think it proper, which was granted.

The persons to be appointed to the southern mission, deferred.

Adjourned to three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

P. M. three o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

To comply with the many earnest supplications from North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia, the Synod, with their own consent, appoint Messrs. Lewes, Caldwell, Chesnutt, and Bay, to go into these parts, as soon as possible, and stay as long as they can in preaching the gospel, and administering the sacraments in all those vacancies that have supplicated, and in others where they may be invited, according to their discretion, and that they endeavour to supply at Upper Marlborough, and Bladensburg, as they go and return; for this purpose the moderator is appointed to give those members proper certificates.

The Synod gratefully accepts Mr. C. T. Smith's proposal, and authorizes him

to itinerate through Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, and especially to preach in Williamsburg, if his health permits.

Mr. Brush is appointed to assist Mr. Brainerd in supplying the vacancies in his neighbourhood.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is also appointed to go to Williamsburg, and also Mr. Millar, to supply each fourth Sabbath at least, at their own discretion, and the respective Presbyteries to supply their pulpits.

The supplication for supplies from second Philadelphia congregation considered, and the Synod appoints Mr. Roe, the two last Sabbaths of June and first of July; Mr. Kerr the third Sabbath of July, and the three Sabbaths following; Mr. Mills the second and third of September.

According to a former request of the corporation of the widows' fund for missionaries to be sent to the frontiers of the province, the Synod appoint Messrs. Beatty and Duffield to go together, the first of August next, and preach at least two months in those parts, and do what else is best for the advancement of religion, according to the instructions of the incorporation, as recorded in the minutes of A. D. 1763; and that Mr. Duffield's pulpit be supplied by Donegall Presbytery; and Mr. Beatty's be supplied by Mr. Brush, two Sabbaths, and by New Castle Presbytery, three Sabbaths; and the first Philadelphia Presbytery supply the other Sabbaths.

A pastoral letter was proposed, examined, and approved, and ordered to be printed immediately, and to be dispersed among all our societies, which is as follows:

"Dearly Beloved:—We think it our indispensable duty, not only in our particular charges, but in this united and more public capacity, to direct you to some suitable reflections upon the late remarkable and merciful steps of Divine Providence, and to inculcate a becoming improvement of an event, the most interesting and important to the people of this continent. For not only in the word of God should we attend to his Divine will, but also mark his hand in that Providence by which he directs the course of human affairs with invariable wisdom and paternal goodness.

"The faithless French, and their savage allies, were lately the rod of Divine displeasure for our many provocations. Under the calamities of war, and the wasting ravages of Indian cruelty, we were repeatedly brought to approach the throne of grace, with solemn fasting and prayer; and thereby openly professed our resolution to forsake the ways of sin, and turn unto the Lord. But, alas! we rendered not to God according to the multitude of his tender mercies, for no sooner was the rod removed, and the blessings of peace restored, but we became more vain and dissolute than before.

"The Almighty thus provoked, permitted counsels of the most pernicious tendency, both to Great Britain and her colonies. The imposition of unusual taxes, a severe restriction of our trade, and an almost total stagnation of business, threatened us with inevitable ruin. A long suspense, whether we should be deprived of, or restored to, the peaceable enjoyment of the inestimable privilege of English liberty, filled every breast with the most painful anxiety. A gloomy cloud thickened over our heads, ready to burst upon us in a desolating storm. Had our gracious Sovereign, the present ministry, and the British Parliament been less wise, just, and good; had they, instead of yielding to a spirit of moderation, unhappily recurred to force, we shudder at the very thoughts of the consequences. We cannot look down the precipice on the brink of which we stood, without horror. We were not without reason apprehensive that the tumultuous outrages, which in some places attended a determined opposition to the disrelished statute, might provoke the resentment of the British legislature.

"When we reflect on the public offences of our land against heaven; when

we think of the open disregard and violation of the holy Sabbath; the neglect of the ordinances of Divine worship, the abuse of gospel light and privileges, the profane swearing and cursing, intemperance and luxury, the various scenes of uncleanness and lasciviousness, the pride and vanity, and every other evil so shamefully prevalent, what less could we expect than that an offended God would have made the gathering tempest to break upon us, and plunged us and our mother country in all the rueful calamities of a civil war? But how astonishing is the long-suffering patience of Jehovah! He has inclined the hearts of many powerful friends to espouse our cause. He has given us to experience the paternal tenderness of the best of kings, and the moderation of the British Parliament. Our gracious God is our deliverer. He is making a further trial of us. May his unmerited goodness lead us to repentance.

"We, therefore, call upon you, who are the dear people of our charge, not only to acknowledge with joy and gratitude the general Providence of God, but also thankfully to adore that particular Providence, wherein, upon special occasions, he directs and controls the course of events by his immediate influence, and whereby he hath on the late interesting occasion, so signally appeared for our protection. We call upon you constantly to reverence that All-wise and Omnipotent Director and Disposer of events on whom we depend for every mercy we enjoy, to be thankful to him for every instance of prosperity, patient under every affliction, submissive to his wise disposals, and obedient to all his holy precepts; to awake to repentance, to consider your ways, and to turn unto the Lord, through his Son Jesus Christ. Let every one beware of adding to the common stock of guilt and iniquity. We beseech and obtest you to be strict in observing the laws and ordinances of Jesus Christ, to pay a sacred regard to his Sabbath, to reverence his holy name, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour by good works. We pray you to seek earnestly the saving knowledge of Christ, and the internal power and spirit of religion. Thus may you hope for the continued kindness of a gracious Providence, and this is the way to express your gratitude to the Father of mercies for your late glorious deliverance. But persisting to grieve the Holy Spirit, by a neglect of vital religion, and a continuance in sin, you will have reason to dread that a holy God will punish you yet seven times more for your iniquities.

"While we thus call upon you to fear God, you will not forget to honour your king, and pay a due submission to his august parliament. Let this fresh instance of royal clemency increase the ardour of your affection to the person, family, and government, of our rightful and gracious sovereign. This you will manifest by a cheerful and ready obedience to civil authority. A spirit of liberty is highly laudable when under proper regulations, but we hope you will carefully distinguish between liberty and licentiousness.

"We most earnestly recommend it to you to encourage and strengthen the hands of government, to demonstrate on every proper occasion your undissembled love for your mother country, and your attachment to her true interest, so inseparably connected with our own.

"That thus you may become wise and good, as well as free and happy, and that while you enjoy liberty, civil and religious, you may not be the servants of sin and Satan, is the fervent prayer of those who watch for your souls, as men who must give an account.

"Signed by order, ELIHU SPENCER, moderator.

"*Presbyterian Church, at New York, May* 30*th*, 1766."

A memorial presented by sundry members recommending to every minister and congregation to erect societies for the reformation of manners and suppression of vice, was brought in and read; and after some deliberation, the Synod

judge it highly expedient and earnestly recommend it to all our members, duly to attend to the memorial, (which we highly approve,) to explain the necessity of such an affair to all their congregations, and use their utmost influence to erect societies, according to the important design of the memorialists.

An overture was brought in to endeavour to obtain some correspondence between this Synod and the consociated churches in Connecticut. A copy of a letter from this Synod to them was also read and approved, and the Rev. Messrs. John Ewing, Patrick Alison, and the moderator, are desired to present this letter and confer with our brethren on this affair. And in case it shall seem meet to our reverend brethren to attend to this our proposal, so far as to appoint commissioners from their body to meet with commissioners from ours; we appoint the Rev. Dr. Alison, and the Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, William Tennent, John Rodgers, Elisha Kent, John Smith, John Blair, and Samuel Buel, to meet with them at such time and place as the reverend brethren of Connecticut shall agree.

Mr. Rodgers is appointed to give the committee notice of what the associated brethren will do relating to this affair.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Ramsey, Hunter, Kirkpatrick, and Latta, to be a committee to meet with the corporation of the widows' fund.

For want of time fully to discuss the report of the committee appointed to consider the address of the lay elders, it is deferred till next Synod.

The Synod adjourned to the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, to meet on the third Wednesday of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1767.

Philadelphia, May the 20th, 1767.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met at the second Presbyterian church according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Ministers: Messrs. Azariah Horton, John Rodgers, Benjamin Hait, Benjamin Woodruff, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, William Mills, Israel Reed, William Kirkpatrick, Enoch Green, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, Charles Beatty, William Ramsey, Benjamin Chesnutt, John Clark, John Ewing, Patrick Alison, John Blair, Elihu Spencer, Robert Smith, John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Joseph Montgomery, Alexander Huston, Andrew Bay, George Duffield, Alexander McDowell, James Finley, William McKennan, James Hunt, Aaron Richards, Thomas Lewis, Francis Peppard, Azel Roe, John Hanna, John Rosborough, John Slemons, Robert Cooper, John Simonton, James Latta, John Roan.—42.

Elders: Messrs. Thomas Jackson, Nathaniel Camp, Thomas Bourne, John Reeves, Lazarus Pine, John Walker, Dr. Hugh Williamson, John Smith, James Gilliland, William Hamilton, Mills Shankland, John Maxwell of Maryland, James Jack, John Maxwell of New Jersey, Francis Campbell, Benjamin Junkin, John Greer, Richard Walker.—18.

Ministers absent: Messrs. John Pierson, Timothy Jones, Joseph Treat, Jonathan Elmore, Abner Brush, Abner Reeve, Simon Horton, Jacob Green, John Darbe, Moses Tuttle, John Moffat, Samuel Parkhurst, Nathan Kerr, John Maltby, Hugh Knox, Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, James White, James Brown, Nehemiah Barker, Benjamin Talmage, Benjamin Goldsmith, David Rose, Sampson Occam, Adam Boyd, John Carmichael, Charles Tennent, William Tennent, James McCrea, John Guild, Charles McKnight, Samuel Kennedy, Thomas Smith, Amos Thompson, James Lyon, Job Prudden. The

whole Presbytery of Dutchess county absent; and the whole Presbytery of Hanover also; of Donegall the Rev. Mr. John Hogg.—37.

Last year's moderator opened the Synod by a sermon from Rev. ii. 10.

Mr. Hunter is chosen moderator for the ensuing year, who, after receiving the usual charge from the last year's moderator, took the chair; and Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Ramsey were chosen clerks.

The reasons of the absence of the Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, James Finley, William McKennan, James Hunt, John Roan, Aaron Richards, Francis Peppard, John Hanna, John Rosborough, and John Slemons, from our last Synod, sustained.

Theophilus Alexander, Mr. Finley's elder, is now come.

New York Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. Jedidiah Chapman to the work of the ministry since our last, who being present took his seat; and also that they have licensed Mr. James Tuttle.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. Elam Potter and Mr. John Close, who being present took their seats; also, that Mr. Thomas Pain is removed by death since our last.

Bethuel Pierson, Mr. Chapman's elder, is now come.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that Dr. Finley was removed by death on the seventeenth of July last; and that they have licensed Mr. Alexander Mitchell.

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that the Rev. Mr. Robert Cross was removed by death in the month of August last.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. John McCrery, James Boyd, John Craighead, Joseph Alexander, and William Forster. That Mr. Samuel Blair was dismissed from their body, and has removed to Boston since our last. That Mr. Alexander Hutchinson was removed by death in the month of October, 1766.

The Synod appoints for a committee of overtures, the Rev. Messrs. Lewis, Hait, Reed, Beatty, Simonton, McKennan, Roan, and Miller; and elders, Messrs. Thomas Jackson, Thomas Bourne, John Maxwell of Maryland, and Richard Walker, to meet to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and by adjournments from time to time, as occasion may require, during the present session.

New York Presbytery further report, that they have taken Mr. Thomas Jackson, a licensed candidate from Scotland, under their care.

Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Duffield, are appointed a committee to examine New Brunswick Presbytery book.

Mr. Robert Smith and Mr. Azariah Horton, are appointed a committee to examine Philadelphia first Presbytery book.

Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Ramsey, are appointed a committee to examine Philadelphia second Presbytery book.

Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Mills are appointed a committee to examine Donegall Presbytery book.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Alison, and Messrs. Nehemiah Greenman, John Strain, and John Griffith, are now come, and the reasons of their coming no sooner, sustained; and their respective elders, John Johnson, Joseph Vanmeter, Hugh Whiteford, and Abel Griffiths, are also come. Messrs. Samuel Buel and Jacob Kerr, are also come, and the reasons of their coming no sooner, sustained.

The committee appointed for the disposing of the interest of the fund in the hands of the treasurer of the college of New Jersey, for the education of pious

youth, report, that they disposed of the whole of the interest due from said fund on the first of October last.

And the Synod appoint as a committee for disposing of said money for the present year, Messrs. William Tennent, Guild, Brainerd, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, Beatty, Caldwell, and Reed, to meet for that purpose at Princeton on the third Wednesday of August next, and that Mr. Kirkpatrick lay the minutes of the proceedings of the several committees appointed on that business, before us at our meeting next spring.

The Synod appoint for a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, Buel, Azariah Horton, Jones, William Tennent, Reed, Kirkpatrick, Beatty, Ewing, Spencer, Blair, Roan, Robert Smith, Miller, and Montgomery, with the moderator; and elders, Messrs. Thomas Jackson, Richard Walker, Dr. Williamson, and John Smith, thirteen of whom to be a quorum; but if the moderator die or be absent, the first on the roll mentioned in the minute, shall have power to call the commission and preside.

The order of last Synod for transcribing the minutes of Synod since the union, and sending them to the respective Presbyteries, was not complied with, on account of some difficulties that came in the way. And the Synod now order, that the stated clerk give copies of the said minutes to such Presbyteries as shall make application for them, and recommend it to the several Presbyteries, each to take care to furnish themselves with said copies.

Ordered, That Mr. Brainerd receive for the current year, the interest of the fund for Indian affairs, in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college.

The affair of Mr. Rowan's appeal deferred.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have deposed Mr. John Murray since our last.

Adjourned to three clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

21 *day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The members of Donegall Presbytery here present, report, that they complied with the order of Synod, for restoring that Presbytery into its former state, but that the dissatisfied brethren, viz. Messrs. Steel, Tate, Thompson, Sampson Smith, McMurdie, Elder, and Beard, refused to meet with them, though duly notified; and that they have been informed, that said dissatisfied brethren have proceeded to form themselves into a separate body, and have acted in a Presbyterial capacity every since.

A letter was brought into the Synod, directed to the moderator, signed by the Rev. Messrs. John Elder, and John Steel, as moderator and clerk of a Presbytery which they call the Presbytery of Donegall, representing that they had been forced by sundry petitions to apply to Synod to be erected into two Presbyteries, which petitions not having had desired success, they were laid under the disagreeble necessity of entering a declinature from the jurisdiction of the Synod; and declaring withal their readiness to return into communion with the Synod, provided they might be erected by them into a separate Presbytery; which letter was read, and ordered to lie on the table for a second reading. From all which the Synod observe that the brethren of Donegall Presbytery, who petitioned for being erected into a separate Presbytery, in the year 1765, adopt the declinature entered last year, by Messrs. Beard and Tate, and consequently must not now be considered as members of this body.

The committee appointed to meet at Huntingdon report, that they complied with the order of Synod, and issued the affair to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

Dr. Williamson informs the Synod that the address to his Majesty was

presented by Mr. De Berdt, and graciously received. And the Synod desire Dr. Williamson to present their thanks to Mr. De Berdt for his kind services in that affair.

The Synod also order the moderator to give Dr. Williamson their thanks for his services in the care of the same address.

Ordered, That each Presbytery bring in to-morrow morning an account how their several members have complied with the order of last Synod for taking subscriptions, and making collections in their respective congregations, and the vacancies in their bounds, to raise a fund for the propagation and support of the gospel in such places as cannot otherwise enjoy it.

Ordered, That Messrs. Ewing and Treat be called upon to give an account of the moneys they have received in consequence of an order of last Synod for congregations that had not collected the year before, to make collections for the support of the Indian school under Mr. Brainerd's care.

New York Presbytery report, that Mr. Nathan Kerr gave a negative answer to the calls from Carolina, put into his hands by order of Synod.

Messrs. Lewis and Caldwell complied with the order of Synod in going to the southward; and Messrs. Bay and Chesnutt gave reasons for not going, which were sustained.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Samuel Kennedy is now come, and he is ordered to give at next *sederunt*, the reasons of his absence from our Synodical meetings since the year 1762. His elder, John Carl, is also come.

The letter signed by Messrs. Elder and Steel, was ordered to be read a second time, and the Synod agree to enter upon the consideration of it; and after much time spent in reasoning on the subject, the Synod find they cannot admit said brethren in the manner they have requested; but, as we would gladly take every step we can, consistent with a good conscience and the interests of religion, to remove the uneasiness of our brethren, and promote harmony and peace; we appoint Messrs. Buel, Rodgers, Horton, Kirkpatrick, Beatty, Ewing, Blair, and Miller, a committee to bring in an overture to-morrow morning relative to the aforesaid petition.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Eliphalet Ball is now come, and the reasons of not coming sooner sustained. Also, William Norcross, Mr. Kirkpatrick's elder, is now come.

Mr. Kennedy gave the reasons of his absence from Synod for five years past, which were sustained.

In consequence of an order of yesterday, each Presbytery brought in an account how their respective members complied with the order of last Synod for making a collection to establish a fund for the propagation of the gospel among the poor, &c.

And the Synod are obliged to declare that it is matter of real grief to them to find that so many of their members have paid so little regard to the authority of Synod, enjoining a liberality for so pious and important a purpose.

The account of moneys collected for the purpose aforesaid, and the persons by whom, is as follows:

Of Suffolk Presbytery.

Mr. White, . . . York currency,	£1	10	0	
Mr. Rose, ...	1	9	0	
Mr. Brown, ...	5	0	0	
Mr. Barker, ...	1	10	0	
Mr. Close, ...	5	0	0	
Mr. Mills, ...	4	2	0	
Total, . . .	18	11	0	
Equal to Pennsylvania currency, . .	£17	12	7½	

Of New York Presbytery.

Mr. Rodgers, ...	£42	9	2	Yk. currency.
Mr. Richards, ...	1	6	2½	
Mr. Peppard, ...	1	0	0	
	44	15	4½	
Equal to	£41	4	2	Pennsyl. cur.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery.

Mr. Reed, ...	£1	10	0	
Mr. Hanna, ...	1	0	0	
Mr. Kirkpatrick, ...	2	17	1	
Mr. Rosborough, ...	1	0	0	
	£6	7	1	Pro. cur.

Of Philadelphia First Presbytery.

Mr. Hunter, ...	£3	7	10
Mr. Beatty, ...	3	17	5
Mr. Richard Treat, ...	2	10	9
Mr. Ramsey, ...	3	4	0
Mr. Clark, ...	1	16	6
Philadelphia Second Congregation, . .	13	11	11½
Total, . . .	£28	8	5½

Of Philadelphia Second Presbytery.

Mr. Ewing, ...	£12	0	0

Of New Castle Presbytery.

Mr. Blair, ...	£0	16	7
Mr. McCarman, ...	1	12	4
	£2	8	11

Of Donegall Presbytery.

Mr. Robert Smith, ...	£2	10	0

Of Lewestown Presbytery.

Mr. Montgomery, ...	£1	0	0	
An unknown hand, ...	0	10	0	
Amounting in the whole to, . .	£112	1	3	Pro. cur.

The account of moneys received by Messrs. Ewing and Joseph Treat, deferred till next *sederunt.*

Mr. Richard Treat reports, that he paid into the hands of Mr. Brainerd the sum of twenty-one pounds, sixteen shillings and one penny, which appears to be the sum put into the hands of Mr. Treat, jun'r. last year, for the support of the Indian school under Mr. Brainerd's care.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. William Tennent is now come, and the reasons of not coming sooner sustained.

Mr. Elias Bailey, Mr. Mills's elder, is also come.

Ordered, That Mr. Ewing pay to Mr. Brainerd the sum of two pounds eighteen shillings, which he reports is the whole he has received for the Indian school; and it is also ordered, that Mr. Joseph Treat pay to Mr. Brainerd the whole of the money he has in his hands at the disposal of the Synod.

The committee appointed to bring in an overture this morning, relative to the petition of Messrs. Elder, Steel, &c. report that they have not had time to complete it, and pray that they may have till next Monday morning for that purpose.

The affair of Mr. Brainerd's school deferred.

The Synod order, that every Presbytery belonging to this body, be careful that those ministers in their bounds, who have not made a collection for pious uses, as it was appointed last year, make a collection before the first of August; and that it be put into the hands of the moderator of the respective Presbyteries, and sent without delay to the treasurer appointed by the Synod. But we desire that such ministers, whose reasons for not complying with the Synodical order, have been sustained, be urged no further at this time.

Thomas Tobin, Mr. Spencer's elder, is now come.

An overture from the Presbytery of New York, relative to collections and subscriptions for pious purposes, was brought in and read. The Synod appoint Dr. Alison, and Messrs. Duffield and Williamson, to correct the overture, and prepare an introduction to said plan, to be submitted to the Synod at their next *sederunt.*

Mr. Brush did not fulfil his appointments, either to the vacancies in the neighbourhood of Mr. Brainerd's congregation, or to Neshaminy, but not being present the Synod could not inquire into the reasons of it.

Messrs. Miller's and Kirkpatrick's reasons for not going to Virginia, sustained.

The appointments of last Synod, for supplies to the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, fulfilled.

Messrs. Beatty and Duffield complied with the order of last Synod, in going on a mission to the frontiers.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M., on Monday next. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Chauncey Graham is now come, and the reasons of not coming sooner, sustained.

The committee appointed to bring in an overture, relative to the letter sent from Messrs. Elder and Steel, have not yet brought it in.

The affair of Mr. Brainerd's school further deferred.

The committee appointed to correct the overture from New York Presbytery,

relative to a collection for pious purposes, and to prepare an introduction to the same, brought it in, which being read and approved, is as follows, viz:

The Synod laying to heart the unhappy lot of many people in various parts of our land, who at present are brought up in ignorance, and that they and their families are perishing for lack of knowledge, who, on account of their poverty or scattered habitations, are unable without some assistance to support the gospel ministry among them; considering also, that it is their duty to send missionaries to the frontier settlements, who may preach to the dispersed families there, and form them into societies for the public worship of God, and being moved with compassion towards the Indians, especially those under our care, who are extremely poor and unable to teach their children to read, or to instruct them in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, have resolved to attempt their relief, and to instruct such as may be willing to hear the gospel.

But as such purposes must be carried on at a considerable expense, we, in imitation of the laudable example of many other societies, recommend a public collection to all the congregations under our care; and that such collection may the more effectually answer the above design, with such other pious uses as frequently occur, they have agreed on the following regulations:

1. That an annual collection be made in all the congregations under our care, as well in the vacant congregations, which the Presbytery may judge able to contribute, as in the congregations that have stated ministers, which shall be disposed of for pious uses at the discretion of the Synod.

2. That each Presbytery under our care appoint a treasurer, who is to receive the money collected from the minister or elder of each congregation within the bounds of said Presbytery, and who shall keep a fair account how much he receives from each congregation by name, with an account of such congregations as have neglected to contribute.

3. That there be a general treasurer appointed by the Synod, who shall receive the collected money from each of the Presbyterial treasurers, which Synodical treasurer shall also take a fair account of all the money received with the names of the several congregations, as returned him by the Presbyterial treasurers.

4. That the Synod every year during their session, cause to be printed a fair account of the money they have received that year from each congregation, also of the disbursements of the money received the foregoing year, with an account of the purposes to which it was applied; and that each minister in the Synod get one of said printed accounts to communicate to his people and to the neighbouring vacant congregations, that so they may have the satisfaction of knowing to what purposes their donations were applied.

Ordered, That Dr. Williamson take care to get the above regulations printed.

Mr. Richard Treat is appointed general treasurer, to receive the aforesaid benefactions for the present year.

The order of last Synod respecting societies for the reformation of manners, was not generally complied with, which was occasioned by their not having copies of the order or plan. The further consideration of this deferred.

Also the consideration of the correspondence proposed with the associate churches in Connecticut, is deferred.

The committee appointed to meet with the corporation of the widows' fund, did not attend except Mr. Kirkpatrick. Their reasons for not attending were sustained. The appointment of another committee, and the further consideration of this matter deferred.

The committee appointed to consider the address of the lay elders and others, brought in their report last year, the further consideration of which was then deferred to the present sessions; but through mistake was transcribed in the

minutes of last year. The Synod entered upon the consideration of the overture they brought in, and have adopted it, as it stands in our book.

Adjourned till three of the clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Brainerd is now come, and the reasons of not coming sooner are sustained.

The overture respecting the Donegall brethren, not yet brought in.

The affair of Mr. Brainerd's school came to be considered, and the Synod agree to allow Mr. Brainerd the sum of thirty pounds per year, for the last three years, for defraying the expenses of the Indian school, which sum he acknowledges he has already in his hands.

And it is further agreed, to allow Mr. Brainerd the sum of thirty pounds for the support of the Indian school for the current year, and the sum of twenty pounds, as an addition to his salary for his extraordinary services in forming societies, and labouring among the white people in that large and uncultivated country.

The affair of forming societies for the reformation of manners, came under consideration, and a member brought in a plan for the purpose, which the Synod recommend to the several members to obtain copies of, and to adapt to their particular circumstances, and that the several Presbyteries use their utmost influence to promote such societies in their respective bounds.

The consideration of the correspondence with the associate churches of Connecticut, further deferred.

Ordered, That Messrs. Montgomery, Ramsey, Latta, and Kirkpatrick, be a committee to inspect into some papers in the hands of Mr. Beatty, relative to the corporation for the widows' fund; that Mr. Beatty attend with them, and that they bring in their report to-morrow afternoon.

The committee appointed to examine New Brunswick Presbytery book, brought it in, and after some remarks it was approved.

The committee appointed to examine Philadelphia second Presbytery book, brought it in, and after some remarks it was also approved.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except the Rev. Mr. John Griffith and John Smith; Mills Shankland and Benjamin Junkin, elders, who are absent without leave, and we are informed are gone home.)

The committee appointed to bring in an overture relative to the dissatisfied Donegall brethren, brought it in, the substance of which is as follows, viz.

That the Synod declare themselves highly offended at these brethren, for not only abiding by their declinature, but acting in a hostile manner since, in alienating the minds of people under their influence, from the Synod, and so forming and prosecuting a schism. That, though the Synod declare they might justly refuse their admission to membership until they acknowledge their offence, and submit to censure, yet out of tenderness to the societies in those parts, and to put an end to this schism, it is humbly overtured, that the Synod consent that Messrs. Steel, Elder, Tate, McMordie, Sampson Smith, and Beard, be a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Donegall, bounded on the west by the river Susquehannah, including Mr. Steel's congregation while he is their minister: provided, nevertheless, that when any of these brethren shall remove out of the bounds of said Presbytery, they shall become members

of the Presbytery into whose bounds they shall remove. And that the Presbytery of Carlisle shall be revived, to which Messrs. Roan, Thompson, and Lang, shall belong.

And after much reasoning, whether the Synod should adopt the overture or not, the further consideration of it was deferred to the afternoon.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Huston had leave to go home.

The consideration of the overture respecting the dissatisfied Donegall brethren, resumed, and after all the members that desired to speak, had been fully heard, and the matter maturely considered, it was put to vote, whether the overture should be admitted or not, and it was carried in the negative by a considerable majority.

In the mean time, though the Synod cannot grant the request of said brethren, to be formed into a distinct Presbytery, yet we declare, that upon their avoiding divisive and hostile measures, and acting in a peaceable and Christian manner, we shall stand ready to hear any reasonable proposal for their returning into membership with us.

The committee appointed to inspect some papers in the hands of the corporation for the widows' fund, brought in their report, which is as follows, viz:

That agreeable to an act of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, passed in the year ——, the money raised by collections in the several congregations of that church, shall be disposed of by the charitable corporation in conjunction with a committee of the united Synod of New York and Philadelphia, for the support and relief of such ministers as are, or may hereafter be called to preach the everlasting gospel among the benighted Indians, or to such congregations as cannot afford them sufficient maintenance, and that the committee cannot ascertain the sum.

The Synod appoint the same committee, with the addition of Messrs. Spencer and McWhorter, to wait on the corporation aforesaid, to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, in order to have the aforesaid sum ascertained, and the power of the committee in disposing of it, and all other matters relating to it.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the correspondence with the associate churches of Connecticut further deferred.

Having gone through the business upon our minutes, ordered, to proceed to consider those matters brought in by the committee of overtures.

A supplication was brought in from Albany, respecting some difficulties in the congregation in that city, which was read; and upon finding that the matter had not been laid before the Presbytery, we refer it to them, and order them to meet and consider it as soon as possible.

But as it is represented to the Synod, that there are many vacancies in the neighbourhood of Albany, where, it is probable, sundry important congregations may be formed, we do appoint the Rev. Mr. Kennedy as a missionary through those parts, and that he take as particular account as he can of the state of that country, and lay it before our next Synod; and that he supply also some time at the direction of Dutchess Presbytery, if it may be convenient,

and that New York Presbytery supply Mr. Kennedy's pulpit seven Sabbaths in his absence.

An appeal was brought in by Mr. John Lawrence, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Dutchess respecting Mr. Ball, and the said Mr. Lawrence requested that the Synod would appoint a committee to meet at Bedford to hear his appeal, as he could not prosecute it at this distance.

In order that the Synod might be able to judge whether the matter complained of to the Presbytery, from which the appeal was brought, is an object of sufficient importance to induce the Synod to send a committee there, agreeably to the prayer of the appellant, it was agreed that Mr. Lawrence should lay before the Synod his complaint, and that Mr. Ball should be heard in what he had to say by way of defence; and that the Presbytery of Dutchess should give all the light they could in the affair, by producing the minutes of their Presbytery on that head, &c.

And after hearing all that the several parties had to offer, the Synod judge, that it is by no means worthy of so much notice as to appoint a committee to go there to determine it; because if there were evidences present to prove all the matters alleged against Mr. Ball by Mr. Lawrence, yet they are of so trivial a nature, that they could not be the foundation of any judicial censure, and consequently that the conduct of Mr. Lawrence and others in the society, in absenting themselves from public worship, on so slender a foundation, can by no means be justified.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Slemmons, who we are informed has gone home, though liberty for that purpose was denied him when he asked it.)

The consideration of the correspondence with the associate churches of Connecticut further deferred.

An appeal from a judgment of the Presbytery of Suffolk, respecting Mr. Mills's removal from Jamaica on Long Island to the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, was brought in and read.

After reading of which, a supplication from the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia prosecuting the appeal, and urging Mr. Mills's removal; likewise a long remonstrance from the congregation of Jamaica, together with an address from the Presbytery of Suffolk, and a letter from the Rev. Mr. Prime, remonstrating against Mr. Mills's removal, were brought in and read.

The Synod then proceeded fully to hear what the respective commissioners and the Presbytery of Suffolk had further to say, for and against Mr. Mills's removal, and having heard Mr. Mills himself on the affair, the Synod not having time now to issue it, refer the further consideration of it till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of Mr. Mills's removal resumed. The Synod having carefully considered all the arguments that were offered against Mr. Mills's removal from Jamaica, together with the arguments on the other hand, for bringing him to this city, having also heard Mr. Mills's own judgment on this subject, that he esteems it his duty to remain in Jamaica; upon the whole, the Synod do confirm the judgment of the Presbytery of Suffolk on that head,

being fully of opinion that it will not be for the edification of the church to remove him.

The consideration of the correspondence with the associate churches of Connecticut resumed.

The minutes of a convention held at Elizabethtown, the fifth of November last, by delegates from the consociated churches in Connecticut and from this Synod, were read, and a plan of union proposed between the Congregational, consociated and Presbyterian churches formed at that convention, was seriously considered and amended; and the following gentlemen, with any other ministers of this reverend body that please to attend, are appointed to meet with the delegates or commissioners from the Congregational and consociated or any Presbyterial bodies, at New Haven the tenth day of next September, and there finally, on the part of this body, to complete the plan of union, and transact all other business that shall be found necessary in consequence thereof.

The gentlemen appointed are the Rev. Messrs. Lewis, Buel, Mills, McWhorter, Rodgers, Hait, Kirkpatrick, Reed, Ramsey, Beatty, Dr. Alison, Ewing, Blair, Spencer, Wilson, Miller, Duffield, Robert Smith, Graham, and Ball.

Mr. Rosborough and his elder, John Maxwell, had leave to go home.

The committee appointed to examine Philadelphia Presbytery book brought it in, and after a few remarks it was approved.

Ordered, That Dr. Williamson get the address and representation of the ruling elders and others, of the Presbyterian denomination in Philadelphia, as corrected and approved by this Synod, printed. That the clerk furnish him with a copy for that purpose.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The consideration of the correspondence with foreign churches further deferred.

Application was made by the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia for supplies, and especially for settled ministers.

The following congregations in North Carolina, viz: Sugar Creek, Fishing Creek, Bethel, the Jersey settlement, Centre Congregation, Poplar Tent, and Rocky River, united in a petition for one or more, of the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Lewis, McWhorter, and James Caldwell, to be sent there, promising for their encouragement that the sum of eighty pounds be paid by any of these congregations in which he shall choose to spend half of his time, and another eighty pounds by the vacant congregations he shall supply; this petition being read, the several gentlemen mentioned in it were interrogated whether they would comply with this request, to which each of them returned a negative answer.

Petitions for supplies were likewise brought in and read from Orange and Culpepper counties, and the south branch of Potomac in Virginia; and from the Long Canes, Cathy's Settlement, Indian Creek, and Duncan's Creek, in North Carolina.

Motions for supplies were also made in behalf of Williamsburg and places adjacent, Hanover, and Cub Creek, in Virginia; Newbern, Edenton, Fourth Creek, Upper Hico, Haw River, Goshen in the forks of Catawba, the south fork of Catawba, the forks of Yadkin, and Salisbury, in North Carolina; Little River in South Carolina; and Briar Creek in Georgia.

The committee appointed to examine Donegall Presbytery book, brought it

in, and informed the Synod that it did not contain the minutes of that Presbytery since last Synod, when it was restored to its former state, and queried whether they should go any further back in examination of it, to which the Synod gave an answer in the negative, and therefore it was returned without any remarks.

The committee appointed to wait on the corporation for the widows' fund, report, that they have not yet received their answer.

In compliance with the request from Albany, the Synod appoint Mr. Rodgers to take a journey to Albany and the places adjacent, as soon as he conveniently can, and supply in that country where he may judge most necessary, at least six Sabbaths, and that Suffolk Presbytery supply Mr. Rodgers's pulpit three Sabbaths, and New York Presbytery the remaining Sabbaths in his absence.

In order to answer the earnest and pressing supplications from Virginia, Carolina, &c. the Synod appoint Messrs. Bay, Potter, McCrery, Alexander, Latta, jun'r. Anderson, and Jackson, to take a journey as soon as the circumstances of their affairs will admit, through Virginia, the Carolinas, (and Georgia if they can,) and that each tarry half a year, and as much longer as he shall think proper.

And it is recommended to Mr. Bay to visit the South Branch of Potomac in going out, and Wilmington, Newbern, Edenton, and Williamsburg, and the places along the sea shore in his return. And that Mr. Jacob Kerr pay a visit to Williamsburg, and tarry there at discretion.

And it is ordered, that proper testimonials be given to these gentlemen for their journey, signed by the moderator and clerk, together with a list of the vacancies that have now supplicated for supplies.

The Synod took into consideration supplies for the second Presbyterian congregation in Philadelphia, and appoint as follows, viz:

That Mr. Kirkpatrick supply there the first Sabbath of June, Mr. Rodgers the second, Mr. Ramsey the third, Mr. Treat, jun'r. the fourth and first of July, Mr. Richard Treat the second, Mr. Duffield the third and fourth; Mr. Robert Smith the first Sabbath of August, Mr. Richard Treat the second, Mr. Spencer the third and fourth, Mr. Finley the fifth; Mr. Richard Treat the first Sabbath of September, Mr. Horton the second and third, Mr. Blair the fourth; Mr. Roe the first and second Sabbaths of October, Mr. McWhorter the third and fourth; Mr. Latta the first Sabbath of November, Mr. Hunter the second and third, Mr. Richard Treat the fourth, Mr. Close the fifth and first of December, Mr. Woodruff the second and third, Mr. Richard Treat the fourth, Mr. Forster the fifth and first of February, Mr. Montgomery the second and third, Mr. Miller the fourth; Mr. R. Treat the first Sabbath of March, Mr. Robert Smith the second, Mr. Hunter the third, Mr. Ramsey the fourth; Mr. Hait the first and second Sabbaths of April, Mr. Blair the third and fourth; Mr. Treat the first Sabbath of May, and Mr. Chesnutt the second.

Adjourned to eight o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

29th day, eight o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That Messrs. Blair and Finley review the Donegall Presbytery book before our next Synod, and for that purpose order, that it be put into their hands at least a month before the Synod.

Messrs. Beatty and Duffield's mission among the Indians and frontiers, came under consideration. And they report that they performed their mission to the frontiers and among the Indians. That they found on the fron-

tiers numbers of people earnestly desirous of forming themselves into congregations, and declaring their willingness to exert their utmost in order to have the gospel among them, but in circumstances exceedingly distressing and necessitous from the late calamities of the war in these parts. And also, that they visited the Indians at the chief town of the Delaware Nation, on the Muskingum, about one hundred and thirty miles beyond Fort Pitt, and were received much more cheerfully than they could have expected. That a considerable number of them waited on the preaching of the gospel with peculiar attention, many of them appearing solemnly concerned about the great matters of religion, that they expressed an earnest desire of having further opportunities of hearing those things; that they informed them, that several other tribes of Indians around them were ready to join with them in receiving the gospel, and earnestly desiring an opportunity. Upon the whole, that there does appear a very agreeable prospect of a door opening for the gospel being spread among those poor benighted savage tribes.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Brainerd and Cooper to pay a visit to our frontier settlements and the Indians on Muskingum and other places, and tarry with them at least three months this summer, provided the report brought back by the Indian interpreter, Joseph, from them and delivered to the Rev. Dr. Alison, and Messrs. Treat, Beatty, and Ewing, proves encouraging, which gentlemen are hereby appointed a committee to receive and judge of said report.

Ordered also, That Messrs. Brainerd and Cooper take no money from the frontier settlements for their ministerial labours among them.

Ordered, That Mr. McKnight supply Mr. Brainerd's place among the Indians, and at Mount Holly the second, third, and fourth Sabbaths of July, and that Mr. William Tennent serve Mr. McKnight with a copy of this minute.

Ordered, That the Lewestown Presbytery send a supply to Egg Harbour and the vacancies in those parts, five Sabbaths in the month of August and one in the month of September. And that Mr. Alexander supply in these parts the three last Sabbaths of September.

And the Synod do agree to pay out of the fund in their hands, raised for pious uses, to the young men sent by Lewestown Presbytery, and to Mr. Alexander for their labours in those parts, at the usual rates for supplies.

The consideration of the correspondence with foreign churches resumed; and the committee appointed at our last Synod for that purpose, report, that for some prudential reasons they did not comply with the order. The Synod do, therefore, appoint the Rev. Dr. Alison, Messrs. Treat, Rodgers, Ewing, Treat, junior, Beatty, McWhorter, and Dr. Williamson, to be a committee for the said purpose, and that they be punctual in preparing letters to the foreign churches, to be laid before our next Synod.

An overture was made by Mr. Robert Smith, that he might be set off from Donegall Presbytery, and have leave to join New Castle, as it is much more convenient, which was granted.

The Synod do appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, McWhorter, Kirkpatrick, Ramsey, and Montgomery, to be a committee to wait further on the corporation for the widows' fund, and get an answer to the queries proposed, and transact all affairs with said corporation for the present year, and that the committee make a full report of the whole to the Synod next year.

Ordered, That Mr. Treat pay out of the fund for pious uses, the printer for two hundred and fifty copies of the ruling elders' plan.

The Rev. Mr. Roan drops his appeal from a judgment of a committee of the Synod, appointed at Hanover, two years ago, provided that it shall not be understood that he acquiesces in said judgment.

Ordered, That the stated clerk of Synod give Messrs. Brainerd and Cooper proper certificates for their journey.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, to meet at the first Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1768.

Philadelphia, the 18*th day of May*, 1768.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met at the first Presbyterian Church, according to adjournment.

Of Dutchess: Rev. Messrs. Wheeler Chase, Thomas Lewis.

Of New York: Rev. Messrs. Azariah Horton, Aaron Richards, John Rodgers, Benjamin Woodruff, Abner Brush, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Joseph Treat, Nathan Kerr, Francis Peppard, Jedediah Chapman.

Of New Brunswick: Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Israel Reed, Thomas Smith, John Rosborough, William Kirkpatrick, John Blair.

Of Philadelphia first Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, William Ramsey.

Second Presbytery of Philadelphia: Rev. Messrs. John Ewing, Patrick Alison.

Of New Castle: Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, Elihu Spencer, Robert Smith, William McKennan, John Carmichael.

Of Lewestown: Rev. Messrs. John Millar, Matthew Wilson, Joseph Montgomery.

Of Donegall: Rev. Messrs. John Roan, John Hogg, James Hunt, John Strain, John Slemmons, Robert Cooper, Amos Thomson.

Elders: John Moore, Nathaniel McKinley, Dr. Burnet, Dr. Bloomfield, Bethuel Pierson, Aaron Mattison, Jacob Reeder, Philip Wynkoop, Joseph Fithian, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Lyon, Manasseh Logue, John Whitehill, Samuel Culbertson, John Voorhees, James Ramsey, Isaiah Potter.

Absent, Dutchess County Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. John Smith, Elisha Kent, Eliphalet Ball, Solomon Mead, James Peck, Samuel Dunlop.

Suffolk Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, Silvanus White, Samuel Buel, James Brown, Nehemiah Barker, Benjamin Tallmage, Benjamin Gouldsmith, David Rose, William Mills, John Close, Elam Potter, Samson Occum.

New Brunswick Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. James McCrea, John Guild, Charles McKnight, Samuel Kennedy, Amos Thomson, Job Prudden, James Lyon, John Hanna.

New York Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Simon Horton, Abner Reeve, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Hait, Jacob Green, James Tuttle, Hugh Knox, John Malby, Moses Tuttle, John Moffat.

First Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Charles Beatty, John Brainerd, Nehemiah Greenman.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, James Latta.

Lewes Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Charles Tennent, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, John Harris.

Donegall Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Adam Boyd, Andrew Bay, James Finley.

All Hanover Presbytery absent.

The Rev. Mr. Hunter, last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Gal. i. 8.

The Rev. Mr. Blair was chosen moderator for the ensuing year; who, after receiving the usual charge from the last year's moderator, took the chair. And Messrs. Montgomery and Ramsey were chosen clerks.

The reasons offered by Messrs. Joseph Treat, Abner Brush, Nathan Kerr, John Carmichael, Thomas Smith, Amos Thomson, for non-attendance last year, are sustained; and John Hogg's absence for this several years past, excused.

Mr. Chauncey Graham is now come, and his elder, Mr. Potter.

The Rev. John Clark is also come.

New York Presbytery report, that they have licensed to preach the gospel since our last, Alexander Miller; and that Mr. Samuel Parkhurst was removed by death, the 11th of March, 1768.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that they have licensed William Woodhull to preach the gospel.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the work of the ministry, Mr. Jeremiah Halsey.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs Thomas Reed and John King; and that Mr. James Latta, a licensed candidate, who was sent by the Synod to the southern parts, informs them by letter, that he is joined with the Presbytery in South Carolina.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. Joseph Smith to preach the gospel.

Dutchess County Presbytery report, that Mr. Samuel Sacket has declined their jurisdiction, and that they have suspended from the work of the ministry Mr. William Hanah.

The Lewes Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the work of the ministry, Mr. Thomas McCrakin, who, being present, took his seat; and that they have licensed to preach the gospel, Messrs. James Watt, Samuel Eakin, and John Bacon.

Donegall Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the work of the ministry, Mr. John Craighead, who, being present, took his seat; and that they have licensed Hezekiah James Balch to preach the gospel: and a member reports, that the Rev. Mr. Robert Henry departed this life the 8th of May, 1767.

The Synod appoint, for a committee of overtures, Messrs. Lewis Woodruff, Thomas Smith, Hunter, Patrick Alison, Robert Smith, Hunt, Miller, Case, Elders, Dr. Bloomfield, Dr. Burnet, John Voorhees, and Dr. Lyon, to meet tomorrow morning, at six o'clock, in this place, and by adjournment from time to time, as occasion may require, during the session.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock. Concluded with prayer.

19th, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Messrs. Green, Simonton, Griffith, are now come, and their reasons for non-attendance yesterday, sustained.

The Rev. Messrs. Jones, Halsey, and Chesnutt, are also now come, and Mr. Jones' elder, Col. Jacob Ford; their reasons for not attending yesterday, sustained.

The Rev. Mr. Duffield is now come, and his reasons for non-attendance yesterday, sustained; his elder, John McBride, is also come.

Messrs. Treat and Caldwell are appointed a committee to examine New Brunswick Presbytery book.

Messrs. Reed and Roan are appointed a committee to examine the first Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Messrs. Rodgers and Wilson are appointed a committee to examine Donegall Presbytery book.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Ewing are appointed a committee to examine New York Presbytery book.

Messrs. Duffield and Cooper are appointed a committee to examine Lewestown Presbytery book.

Messrs. Robert Smith and Spencer are appointed a committee to examine Dutchess County Presbytery book.

The Presbytery books of Suffolk, New Castle, Hanover, and the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, are not present.

The report of the committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, belonging to the Synod for the education of poor and pious youth, deferred.

And the Synod appoint for a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, Lewis, Mills, Azariah Horton, Jones, William Tennent, Reed, Kirkpatrick, Hunter, Ewing, Spencer, Roan, Robert Smith, Miller, Montgomery, Duffield, Graham, Case, with the moderator; and elders Col. Ford, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Bloomfield, Dr. Burnet, Dr. Lyon, and Mr. Voorhees. Thirteen of whom to be a quorum; but if the moderator die, or is absent, the first mentioned on the roll in the minutes, shall have power to call the commission and preside.

Mr. Brush's reasons for not fulfilling his appointments to Mr. Brainerd's congregation, and Neshaminy, as ordered in the year 1766, are sustained.

Mr. Kennedy did not fulfil his appointment in going to Albany, on the account of sickness in his family, and other reasons satisfactory to the Synod.

Mr. Slemmons, who went home last year without obtaining leave, is excused.

Mr. Rodgers complied with his appointment to Albany.

The Presbytery of New York fulfilled their appointment in supplying the New York congregation in Mr. Rodgers' absence.

The only members of Suffolk Presbytery that could safely go to New York, agreed to supply there; but some of them were disappointed.

All the appointments to the southward were complied with, except by Mr. Anderson, who is not present; and by Mr. Bay, who, not being here, it is not known whether he complied or not.

All the members appointed to supply Philadelphia second congregation complied, except Mr. Roe, Mr. Miller, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Chesnutt, whose reasons for not complying are sustained.

The Donegall Presbytery book not being sent, on the account of Mr. Blair's removal, the committee did not review it.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Alison is now come, and his elder, Charles Thomson. The Doctor's reasons for non-attendance sooner, sustained.

Mr. Bay is now come, and his reasons for not attending sooner, are sustained.

The committee appointed to dispose of the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey, for the support of poor and pious youth at said college, report, that there will remain on hands, of the interest of the fund aforesaid, not disposed of, against the first of October next, the sum of fifty two pounds proclamation money of New Jersey. And the

Synod appoint as a committee for disposing of said money for the present year, the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Guild, Brainerd, Kirkpatrick, Ewing, Blair, Caldwell, and Reed, to meet for that purpose at Princeton, on the third Wednesday of August next.

Mr. Brainerd is now come, and the reasons of his not coming sooner, sustained.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. James Finley is now come, and his elder, Mr. Robert Macky. Mr. Finley is excused for not attending sooner.

The Synod proceeded to consider the affair of the Indian school under the inspection of the Rev. Mr. Brainerd; and it appears from Mr. Brainerd's report, that there is still a school existing among the Indians under his care; and the Synod do agree to continue to support said school, and do appoint the usual salary of thirty pounds to be paid to Mr. Brainerd for the ensuing year; and do order the clerk of the Synod to give an order for that sum on the Synodical treasurer. It is further agreed to allow Mr. Brainerd the sum of twenty pounds as an addition to his salary, for his extensive services and labour in those uncultivated parts; and that the clerk also give an order to Mr. Brainerd on the Synodical treasurer for this purpose.

The Synod do also order Mr. Brainerd to receive for the current year the sum of eighteen pounds, being the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, appointed to support an Indian mission.

Messrs. Brainerd and Cooper report, that they did not execute their mission among the Indians on the Muskingum, and other parts, as ordered at last Synod, by reason of the discouraging accounts brought in by the interpreter, Joseph, sent out as mentioned in our last year's minutes, and other discouraging circumstances. And as it appears that Mr. Brainerd had occasion to be at the expense of sending an Indian to prepare the way for his intended mission, therefore the Synod do agree to pay the sum of five pounds to discharge said expense. Ordered, that the Synodical treasurer pay said sum.

The Synod taking under consideration the deplorable condition of the Indian tribes, the natives of this land, who sit in heathenish darkness, and are perishing for lack of knowledge, do appoint the following persons to be a committee to draw up and concert a general plan, to be laid before this Synod at their next meeting, to be approved by them in order to prepare the way to propagate the gospel among these benighted people, viz. Dr. Alison, Messrs. Read, Treat, Ewing, William Tennent, Rogers, Brainerd, McWhorter, Caldwell, Dr. Williamson, Charles Thomson, and the moderator, to meet at Elizabethtown, the first Wednesday of October next.

The Synod proceeded to consider how far each Presbytery had complied with the order of last Synod, in respect of the plan laid by some lay elders some time ago and adopted by this Synod; and a satisfactory account not being given, the Synod do appoint that each Presbytery do order one of their members to bring in a particular account in writing how far each congregation in their bounds have complied with said regulations, against the next Synod.

Adjourned to three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The members of this Synod, appointed to meet the convention at New Haven last year, report, that many of them did meet according to order, and the

plan laid before the Synod last year was accepted; and that they have appointed another convention the first Wednesday of October, at Elizabethtown, and the following gentlemen are now appointed by this Synod to be delegates from this body to meet at said convention, viz. Messrs. Case, Kent, Lewis, Mills, Rodgers, Jones, Jacob Green, Caldwell, William Tennent, Kirkpatrick, Blair, Spencer, Robert Smith, Miller, Montgomery, Duffield, Hunt, Richard Treat, Hunter, Ewing, Joseph Treat, Dr. Alison, Mead, Close, Brainerd, Alison, Finley, James Kerr, and Cooper.

The Synod do order Dr. Alison to write to the General Association of the Consociated Churches in Connecticut, to appoint one of their members to open the convention with a sermon at Elizabethtown. And the Synod order, that the minutes of said convention be laid before this body every year.

Mr. Thompson has obtained leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Voorhees, who is gone home without leave.)

Mr. Huston is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained.

A question was proposed by a member of the Synod, which is, whether the committee of overtures are to be considered as agents and counsels, or shall they be considered as judges? The consideration of which is deferred to next Synod.

A proposal was brought in desiring the Synod to fall upon some general plan to prevent irregularities in respect of marriage, and it is recommended to every member of this Synod carefully to consider the said affair, and be ready to deliver their sentiments on the subject next Synod.

An address from several gentlemen who call themselves members of Donegall Presbytery, was brought in and read; the consideration of which is deferred till Monday afternoon.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday next, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of an address of a number of gentlemen who call themselves the Presbytery of Donegall, deferred till the afternoon.

Some members made a motion that the affair of Mr. Tennent's request be reconsidered, which was agreed to, but deferred till next *sederunt.*

New Castle Presbytery book is now brought in, and Mr. Jones and Mr. Richards are appointed a committee to examine it.

The committee appointed to meet with the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, and of their widows and children, &c. report, that they waited on said corporation and proposed the following queries, viz:

1st. What power the committee of the Synod have in the distribution of some money raised by virtue of an act of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and by them put into the hands of the corporation aforesaid?

2d. What was the total sum put into the hands of said corporation by the General Assembly aforesaid, to be disposed of in conjunction with the committee of the Synod?

3d. What part of said money the corporation have allotted for the committee to have any concern with?

4th. Whether there is any of said money to be disposed of this year for the

purposes mentioned in the act of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland?

To which queries the committee further report, that they have received the following answer from the corporation aforesaid, viz:

"At a meeting of the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, and of their widows and children, held at the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, May the 27th, 1767. There is inserted in their minutes the following resolution:

"The answer to the questions proposed by the committee of the Synod came under consideration.

"In answer, the corporation declare that it is the sense of this board, that though a corporate body may not in the management of their affairs, legally associate with persons not in membership; yet in regard to the limitation of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, we judge it incumbent on us to consult with the committee, and mutually to propose and to agree with one another in the uses to which the money is to be applied; provided always, that if the Synod do not appoint a committee, or if that committee do not attend the corporation, it shall not be hindered to proceed to do business.

May the 19*th*, 1767.

"At a meeting of the corporation at the first Presbyterian church in this city, it was determined,

"That the interest of seven hundred pounds sterling is to be disposed of yearly for the time to come, if there be occasion for it, with the advice and consent of the Synod's committee.

"Ordered, That the secretary give a copy of this our answer to the questions proposed by the committee.

"A true copy, by FRANCIS ALISON, Secretary."

The further consideration of this affair deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the request of several gentlemen who call themselves the Presbytery of Donegall was resumed, and after much conversation and reasoning on the head, it was agreed to defer it till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, nine of the o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mrs. Tennent further deferred.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the report of their committee appointed last year to examine the state of the accounts of some money put into the hands of the corporation, for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, &c. by the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, to be disposed of by said corporation in conjunction with a committee of the Synod, and do approve of the above queries put to said corporation by their committee; but judge that the answers given by the corporation are not fully satisfactory in these following points, viz: That the total sum of the money collected by the Church of Scotland is not specified, and secondly, that no account is given how this money has been disposed of since it came into their hands; and also, that the corporation seem to insinuate that they have a power to dispose of said money if the committee of the Synod neglect or otherwise

do not attend them; and therefore do appoint the following gentlemen a committee to attend upon said corporation this year, to transact all affairs relative to said money, viz: Messrs. Spencer, McWhorter, Ramsey, Kirkpatrick, and Montgomery, three of whom are to be a quorum.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the request of the gentlemen who call themselves the Donegall Presbytery, and after much reasoning on the subject the further consideration of it is deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Philip Wynkoop, Mr. Richard Treat's elder, having gone home on Saturday, and not being able to return, Mr. Thomas Bourne, another elder of the same congregation, is permitted to take his place.

Messrs. Hugh Huston and Samuel Culbertson are gone home without leave.

The request of the gentlemen who call themselves the Presbytery of Donegall, was resumed, and after much time spent in hearing all that was said upon the subject, it was voted whether their request should be granted or not, and it was carried in the negative by a great majority. There being nothing in their petition but what was requested by them last year and then denied, and there now appearing no new light upon the subject, the Synod judge that the door is still open for them to return in a regular manner by becoming members of the Presbytery of Donegall, and as such taking their seats in this house, which if they will do, the Synod hereby declare that they are still willing to receive them, and upon their becoming members, to hear all complaints and as far as in their power to redress all grievances, and to attend to all proposals that may be made to heal differences and promote the Mediator's kingdom, and then to new model Presbyteries if it should be judged necessary by this Synod.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, at nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Sparks, Mr. Chesnutt's elder, who is gone home without leave.)

Mr. Fithian has leave to go home.

Mrs. Tennent's complaint came under consideration, which the Synod remit to the Presbytery of Lewes, and at their particular request appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Finley, McKennan, Enoch Green, and Ramsey, to meet with said Presbytery as correspondents, and assist them in all their determinations on said affair, to meet at Buckingham on the third Wednesday of November next.

Upon reading the minute of yesterday concerning the brethren who call themselves the Presbytery of Donegall, Mr. Tate said, that he and his brethren with him were not authorized to make any other proposals to the Synod beside those mentioned in their petition, yet he believed that if the Synod would allow the Rev. Messrs. Sampson Smith and Beard to join the Presbytery of New Castle, Mr. Thomson that of Donegall, and the Rev. Messrs. Steel, Elder, and McMordie, the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, it might heal the breach; in the mean time he desired liberty to join the second Presbytery of Philadelphia. The Rev. Mr. Lang being present, being asked whether he was willing to be joined to the Presbytery of Donegall, answered, that he rather chose to belong to the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, but if the Synod judged it the

best expedient for peace, and the rest of his dissatisfied brethren would come into the general plan, he would consent. Therefore, after due deliberation the Synod came to this conlusion, viz: That although they highly disapprove of the conduct of these brethren since their departure from the Synod, yet for the sake of peace they authorize the above mentioned Presbyteries to receive them in the following manner, viz: the Rev. Messrs. Thompson and Lang into the Presbytery of Donegall, the Rev. Messrs. Beard and S. Smith into the Presbytery of New Castle, and the Rev. Messrs. Steel, Elder, Tate, and McMordie, into the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, provided that they apply for admission the first convenient opportunity. But the Synod agree that this regulation is not intended to subject these vacancies that now are or hereafter shall be in the bounds of the Presbytery of Donegall to any other Presbytery, nor shall they apply at any time to any other without express leave obtained from that Presbytery. And it is further agreed, that if any of said brethren comply with said regulations, they shall previously and expressly withdraw their declinature entered at New York, 1766, and without this they shall not be admitted as members of this Synod or any of its Presbyteries.

Ordered, That the clerk give Mr. Tate a copy of this minute.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Peppard had leave to go home, and Mr. John Whitehill, Mr. Robert Smith's elder.

Mr. Strain brought in a protest against the above determination of the Synod in these words, viz:

I enter my protest against the above written determination of Synod for the following reasons.

1. Because I look upon said determination to be the erecting a monument of the former division of this church.

2. I apprehend that the foresaid determination, affecting the state of those three Presbyteries, in the bounds of which the people have been most divided formerly, will have nearly the same effect in reviving and confirming the prejudices of the people, that a division of this Synod would have. Therefore,

3. I apprehend it will have a tendency greatly to obstruct the success of the gospel of our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The foresaid determination appears to me too much to approve the schismatical conduct of those gentlemen who declined, and so far as it does so, the Synod adopts their schismatical practices and lies under the heavy guilt of the same.

5. Although I am persuaded, that the Synod does in this act seek the peace of the church, yet the act itself tends to make the true peace of the church, and in some measure the success of the gospel, a sacrifice to appease the wrath of a few, and so it opens the door for unrestrained passion to demand from this body whatever satisfaction it chooses.

And as I think the exoneration of conscience, a freedom from the Synod's guilt in this affair, and bearing a testimony for the cause of Christ, are the motives which excite me to my present conduct; that these ends may be answered I humbly pray this Synod to insert this my protest and reasons in their minutes. Signed by

JOHN STRAIN.

The dissent of the Rev. Messrs. Roan, Cooper, Slemmons, and Duffield, from the same determination of Synod, was brought in and read in the following words, viz:

To the Reverend Synod of New York and Philadelphia:

It is with much real concern and distress of mind we find ourselves obliged to inform this body that we can by no means approve the determination of this Synod disposing of a number of members formerly belonging to the Donegall Presbytery, as expressed in said determination. Our reasons are,

1. The only reason ever offered by the gentlemen now new modelled, for any such step being taken, was bad temper and want of brotherly love, which temper they prayed the Synod to indulge, and the Synod have in our opinion, contrary to the spirit of the Christian religion, granted them that indulgence.

2. The petition of those gentlemen for separation from their brethren of Donegall, did contain by necessary implication very heavy charges against their brethren; and the Synod have, by allowing them separation, confirmed those charges without ever allowing their brethren so charged, the privilege of a fair hearing, but positively refusing it, though repeatedly and earnestly prayed for by the brethren thus charged.

3. The Synod have for three several years insisted that these gentlemen should return and sit with their brethren; this they have loudly complained of and represented the Synod's conduct as tyrannical, and on this entered a declinature in the year 1766, and have adhered to it ever since. The Synod have, by their present act, declared that charge to have been well founded, and have therefore themselves proposed as the very foundation of having that declinature withdrawn, their renunciation of that sentiment, and approached to an expedient proposed by some of those gentlemen.

4. Those gentlemen have been in the judgment of this Synod and in the face of the world, most zealously engaged in spreading schism, rending congregations as far as in their power, and openly reproaching the Synod as arbitrary and cruel; all which conduct, we apprehend the Synod does patronize by this determination of admitting them to membership without any proper acknowledgment of their having acted wrong herein.

5. This determination, in our opinion, is a departing from and counteracting the very spirit and design of the plan of union, as it is in a great part built on the very footing of party, and instead of demolishing a Presbytery, which in the judgment of many members of this house, ought not to be allowed an existence, it is increased and strengthened.

6. This determination is, in our opinion, formed also on the subversion of discipline in the church, as it respects ministers, inasmuch as, according to this determination, those gentlemen are as we apprehend covered over from being called to account for any past mal-conduct, and brought into good standing under the bare mention in the minute of synodical disapprobation for their irregularity.

7. It is, in our opinion, setting a most pernicious precedent, as what has been granted to them cannot consistently be refused to any others who may at any time request it. But a request of disunion from their brethren thrice condemned by the Synod, and yet obstinately persisted in though never supported by any one approved reason, has, in this determination, been granted them, and consequently any other repeatedly denied and unsupported request must hereafter be granted also.

8. This determination manifestly erects a monument of division, in the body, as a number of those brethren are not only granted separation from their brethren of Donegall, but brought through another Presbytery and joined to a third at the distance of more than one hundred miles from some of the members, to the great abuse of much precious time which might be better employed in some other service.

On the whole, the step taken by the Synod, however specious it may at first view appear, is, in our opinion, subversive of good order, derogatory to this

reverend body, prejudicial to the interests of religion, and evidently tending to division, anarchy, and confusion, and as such we bear our open testimony against it, and solemnly declare our dissent from it, and pray that this our dissent, and the reasons of it, be entered in the records of this Synod.

JOHN ROAN,
JOHN SLEMMONS,
ROBERT COOPER,
GEORGE DUFFIELD.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26 *day, at nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Mr. McKinley, Mr. Rodgers' elder, who is gone home without leave.)

The Synod proceeded to hear and consider a Latin letter to the Church of Geneva, which was approved, and ordered to be transcribed, and signed by the moderator.

A letter directed to the Synod of North Holland was also read and approved; and the Synod do appoint the following gentlemen to prepare letters to the following churches, viz. Mr. Rodgers, a letter to the Church of Holland; and Mr. Ewing, to the Church of Geneva; Mr. Joseph Treat, to the Church of Switzerland; the moderator to the Church of Scotland; Mr. Robert Smith, to the Synod of seceding ministers in Scotland; Dr. Williamson, to the ministers in and about London; Dr. Alison, to the Synod of Ireland; Mr. McWhorter, to the Churches in South Carolina; and Mr. Kirkpatrick, to the ministers in and about Dublin. And these letters are ordered to be prepared and ready to be laid before the Synod early in their session next year.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M., to meet at the second Presbyterian Church. Concluded with prayer.

Second Presbyterian Church, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A supplication was brought in from the honourable board of trustees of the New Jersey College, praying assistance in supporting a Professor of Divinity from the last year's collection, and was fully considered, and the Synod judge, that they cannot give any part of the money collected last year towards the support of a professor of Divinity in the said college, but do agree, and hereby order, a general collection to be made for this purpose, in all our congregations; and that the money raised by this separate collection be applied particularly by this Synod yearly, for this purpose, till expended; and in the mean time, in order to assist in supporting a Professor of Divinity in said college, the Synod do agree to give the present Professor the sum of fifty pounds out of the money now in the hands of our treasurer, to be refunded next year.

Ordered, That Mr. Treat, our treasurer, pay this sum to the trustees of New Jersey College. Mr. McWhorter obtained leave to go home.

A supplication from Sussex, on Delaware, for missionaries, was brought in and read.

An application on the behalf of several distressed societies on the frontiers of Pennsylvania, and the South Branch of Potomac, was made by a member, for missionaries to be sent among them.

Application was also made by a member on the behalf of Great Egg Harbour, and parts adjacent, for missionaries to be sent among them.

Ordered, That Lewestown Presbytery appoint their candidates to supply the Forest, in Sussex, on Delaware, eight Sabbaths, at the most convenient places, for which the Synod order that their treasurer pay said candidates eight pounds.

Application was made by a member on the behalf of the back parts of Baltimore and Frederick counties, in Maryland, requesting a missionary to be sent among them. The Synod order that the Presbytery of New Castle supply said parts by some of their candidates, or members, four Sabbaths, for which the Synod allow four pounds.

Ordered, That Mr. Boyd supply at Great Egg Harbour, and parts adjacent, four Sabbaths, viz. the three last Sabbaths of October, and the first of November, for which, together with his expenses in going there, the Synod allow him five pounds. Also, that Mr. Thomas Smith supply them three Sabbaths at discretion, taking care to notify them in due time, for which the Synod allow him three pounds.

Ordered, That Mr. Roan supply at the South Branch of Potomac, three Sabbaths at discretion, for which the Synod allow him four pounds ten shillings.

Ordered, That Mr. Halsey supply two Sabbaths in Sherman's Valley, and one at Bullskin, at discretion, for which the Synod allow him three pounds.

Ordered, That Mr. Jackson supply four Sabbaths north of the Kittatinning Hills, for which the Synod allow him four pounds; and that Mr. Balch supply four Sabbaths north of the Kittatinning Hills, for which the Synod allow him four pounds.

Ordered, That Mr. Hunt supply the vacancies north of the city of Albany, five Sabbaths, at discretion, for which he is allowed five pounds.

A call for Mr. McCreary, a candidate under the care of the New Castle Presbytery from the inhabitants of Long Canes Settlement, in South Carolina, was brought in and read; as also a supplication to the Reverend Synod, requesting their concurrence in presenting said call, and urging his acceptance thereof. Also, another supplication from said place, requesting, (providing Mr. McCreary should reject their call,) to grant them a stated supply for six months, of some skilful minister. The Synod gave said call into the hands of Mr. McCreary, requiring his answer to it, who replied, that he had not clearness at present to determine either in favour or against the said call, and requested time to deliberate on it, which is granted, and the Synod recommend it to Mr. McCreary to determine the matter as soon as conveniently he can, and give his answer to New Castle Presbytery, who are desired in case of his accepting the said call, to ordain him as soon as they can.

A supplication from Cathey's Settlement, and Fourth Creek, North Carolina, requesting supplies, especially by Mr. McCreary, was brought in and read.

A supplication also from Coddle Creek for supplies, especially by Mr. McCreary, was brought in and read.

A supplication also from the Three Creeks, and upper part of Catawba River, for supplies, especially for Mr. Bay, was brought in and read; also, an application by Mr. Bay, for supplies in behalf of Spotsylvania, in Virginia, Upper Haw River, Deep River, Anson County, Bush River, Fair Forest, Indian Creek, the forks of Tiger River, Union congregation, Bullock's Creek, Clark's Forest, Bethel congregation, Fishing Creek, Hitchcock Creek, upon Pee Dee River, Pine Tree Hill, and Stephen's Creek.

A supplication from Steel Creek and Providence, in Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, for supplies, was brought in and read, especially for Mr. Lewis, Mr. McCreary, or Mr. Potter, to continue some time with them in order to settlement.

A supplication also from Timber Ridge, in Virginia, for supplies.

A memorial from Col. Alexander McNatt, in Nova Scotia, setting forth the deplorable state of that new part of the Church, and earnestly requesting two ordained ministers, to continue some time to ordain elders and organize the churches.

Also an application by Mr. Jackson, on the behalf of several congregations in Augusta county, Virginia, for supplies.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, eight o'clock, to meet at Market-street meeting-house. Concluded with prayer.

27 *day, eight o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have received Mr. Joseph Tate, having withdrawn his declinature, and promising subjection to the jurisdiction of this Synod, and he being present, took his seat.

A letter was read from the Rev. Mr. Sacket, praying that the Synod would take under their consideration the unhappy difference betwixt him and the Presbytery of Dutchess county.

A supplication was also brought in and read from Bedford, in West Chester county, praying that a committee of this Synod may be appointed to meet at said place to settle all differences in the congregation, and after due deliberation, the Synod do appoint the following gentlemen to be a committee of this Synod to meet at Bedford the last Wednesday of August, to hear all affairs relative to both the above petitions, and finally settle all differences, viz. Messrs. John Rodgers, Caldwell, McWhorter, William Tennent, Lewis, Mills, Close, Kerr, Reeve, Jones, Hait, and Joseph Treat.

A supplication was brought in and read from the Presbyterian Church in the city of Albany, setting forth their distressed condition on the account of a heavy debt contracted by building their church, praying assistance. The Synod do sincerely pity their distressed condition, but find it is not in their power at present to help them.

A petition was brought in by Messrs. Robert Knox and Anthony Pearson, in behalf of themselves and fifty-one other persons, complaining of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, as Dr. Alison, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Patrick Alison, they judge, are not competent judges in the affair of presenting a call to the Rev. Patrick Alison, to the pastoral charge of the first Presbyterian Church in this city, and was read, and fully considered, and the Synod judge that the affair does not regularly come before this judicature, as there is now a sufficient number of members to constitute a Presbytery, if these gentlemen, before mentioned, should be set aside as improper to judge in this affair.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Horton, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Spencer, obtained leave to go home.

Ordered, That the treasurer of the Synod pay to the janitor who attended us last year, the sum of three pounds, and the same sum to the janitor for this year.

Mr. Montgomery has leave to join the New Castle Presbytery, obtaining a regular dismission from Lewes, but it is ordered he attend with the Lewes Presbytery at Buckingham, the third Wednesday of November.

The Synod do appoint the Rev. Mr. Bay to pay a visit to the vacancies

above the city of Albany, for six Sabbaths, as soon as convenient, for which he is to receive six pounds.

The Synod do appoint Mr. Jackson, a licensed candidate in the Presbytery of New York, to take a journey to the southern provinces; and in order more fully to answer the end of his mission, the Synod do recommend it to either the Presbyteries of Donegall or Hanover, to ordain the said Mr. Jackson as soon as possible.

Mr. Halsey is also appointed to take a journey to the southern provinces.

Mr. Tate is appointed also to take a journey to the western parts of Virginia, and to North Carolina, in the fall of this year, if the state of his congregation will permit.

And the moderator and clerk are ordered to give the above gentlemen proper credentials; and also to Mr. Lewis, if he should think proper to go to North Carolina next fall; also to Mr. Bay.

The Synod can send no missionaries to Nova Scotia this year, but determine to consider it next Synod.

Mr. Anderson is appointed to take a tour on the Western frontiers of this Province, to set off as soon as possible, and preach in the vacancies on these frontiers at least twelve Sabbaths, for which he is to receive twenty shillings for every Sabbath that he preaches on the other side of the Kittatinning Mountains, and to take his directions from the Donegall Presbytery.

Mr. McCreary is also appointed to preach over these mountains four Sabbaths, at the directions of the Donegall Presbytery, for which he is to receive four pounds.

The Synod order Mr. Strain to supply the Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia the first Sabbath of June; Mr. Green, the second; Mr. Eakin, the third and fourth Sabbaths; Mr. Carmichael, first Sabbath of July; Mr. Hunt, the third of July; Mr. Chapman, the last of July and first of August; Mr. Hunter, the second Sabbath; Mr. Richards, third and fourth of August; Mr. Bay, first and second September; Mr. Carmichael, third September; Mr. Robert Smith, fourth of September and first of October; Mr. Montgomery, second and third of October; Mr. Woodruff, fourth and fifth of October.

Ordered, That the moderator sign all letters to the foreign churches.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of May next, 10 of the clock, A. M. to meet at the Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Concluded with prayer.

1769.

Philadelphia, May 17*th*, 1769.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the second Presbyterian church in this city. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the Presbytery of Donegall: the Rev. George Duffield, John Strain, Robert Cooper, John Slemmons, John Craighead.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: the Rev John Miller, Matthew Wilson.

Of New Castle Presbytery: the Rev. Alexander McDowel, Robert Smith, William McKennan, John Montgomery, James Finley, John Carmichael.

Of first Philadelphia Presbytery: the Rev. Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, John Brainerd, Benjamin Chesnutt, William Ramsey, John Clark, Enoch Green.

Of second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Alison, John Simonton, John Ewing, James Latta, Patrick Alison.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: the Rev. John Blair, William Kirkpatrick, John Rosborough.

Of Suffolk Presbytery: the Rev. John Close.

Of New York Presbytery: the Rev. Azariah Horton, Dr. Rodgers, Aaron Richards, Benjamin Hait, James Caldwell.

Elders: Messrs. Benjamin Blaith, Thomas Conary, Robert Macky, William Brown, Maskel Ewing, Isaac Abraham, James Sterret, James Rolston, John Brooks, William P. Smith, Christopher Hughs, John Maxwell, Az. McClane, Dr. Williamson.

Absent of Hanover Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Blaith, Craig, Zancky, Brown, Todd, McCadden, Rice, Patillo, Criswell, D. Caldwell, Cummins, Waddle, Alexander, Leak.

Donegall Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. Samuel Thomson, John Rowan, John Hogg, James Hunt, James Lang.

Lewestown Presbytery: the Rev. Charles Tennent, John Harris, Alexander Huston, James McCrakin, John Bacon.

New Castle Presbytery: the Rev. Elihu Spencer, Andrew Bay, John McCreary..

First Philadelphia Presbytery: the Rev. Charles Beatty, Nehemiah Greenman.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery: the Rev. John Elder, John Steel, Robert McMordie.

New Brunswick Presbytery: the Rev. Charles McKnight, James Read, John Hannah, Samuel Kennedy, Jer. Halsey, James Lyon, Job Prudden.

Suffolk Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Prime, Buel, White, Brown, Barker, Goldsmith, Talmage, Rose, Lewis, Mills, Potter, Occum.

The whole Presbytery of Dutchess County.

New York Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Pierson, Jacob Green, John Moffat, John Elmer, John Darby, Abner Reeve, Nathan Kerr, Benjamin Woodruff, Azariah Roe, Francis Peppard, John Maltby, Hugh Knox, Simon Horton, Abner Brush, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Treat, J. Chapman, James Tuttle, Timothy Jones.

Mr. John Blair, the last year's moderator, opened the Synod by a sermon from Rev. iii. 2, last clause.

Mr. Kirkpatrick was chosen moderator.

Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Patrick Alison were chosen clerks.

Mr. Hait's and Mr. Latta's reasons for being absent last year, sustained.

Donegall Presbytery report, that Mr. Samuel Thompson and Mr. James Lang have joined them, according to the minutes of the last Synod.

Lewestown Presbytery report, they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry Mr. John Brown.

New Castle Presbytery report, the Rev. Mr. Adam Boyd was removed by death, Nov. 20, 1768. That they ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. John McCreary, William Forster, and Mr. Joseph Smith, the two last of whom being present took their seats with Mr. James Huston, Mr. Smith's elder. And they further report, they have licensed to preach as candidates, Mr. John Woodhull, Mr. Josiah Lewis, Mr. Hezekiah Balch; that Mr. Sampson Smith and Mr. John Baird had joined their Presbytery, according to the minutes of the last Synod; and that they have suspended from the exercise of the gospel ministry, Mr. Sampson Smith, and that they have received the Rev. Daniel McClelland as a member of their Presbytery, who being present took his seat.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. Alexander Mitchell, and received the Rev. Mr. James Sproat, late a member of the association of New Haven, in Connecticut

who being present took their seats with their elders, Mr. Robert Patterson and Mr. Gunning Bedford.

The second Philadelphia Presbytery report, that Mr. John Elder, Mr. John Steel, and Mr. Robert McMordie, joined them, according to the minute of the last Synod.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have received the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, late member of the Presbytery of Paisley, in Scotland, who being present took his seat. That the Rev. Mr. James McCrea was removed by death the tenth day of this instant, and that they have licensed Mr. Jacob Van Arsdalen to preach as a candidate.

New York Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the gospel ministry, Mr. James Tuttle, and that Mr. Moses Tuttle has withdrawn himself from our jurisdiction.

By a minute laid before us, signed by the moderator of the Presbytery of Hanover, we are informed that Mr. Thomas Jackson and Mr. Samuel Leak were ordained by that Presbytery to the work of the gospel ministry. Mr. Jackson being present took his seat.

The Synod appoint for a committee of overtures, the Rev. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Finley, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Latta, Mr. Blair, Mr. Hait, Mr. Close, and Mr. Jackson, with Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Sterret, and Maskel Ewing, elders, to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and as often afterwards as business may require.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

With the Rev. William Tennent, John Hogg, and Alexander McWhorter, who gave sufficient reasons for not attending yesterday. Also, Dr. Burnet, Joseph Cowen, and Hugh Whiteford, elders, are now present.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Brainerd are appointed a committee to examine the Presbytery book of Donegall.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Montgomery are appointed a committee to examine the first Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. McWhorter are appointed a committee to examine the Presbytery book of New Brunswick.

Mr. Robert Smith and Mr. Duffield are appointed a committee to examine the Presbytery book of New York.

The Presbytery books of Hanover, Lewestown, New Castle, the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, Suffolk and Dutchess County, are not present.

Ordered, That those books be brought next Synod.

Mr. Tate is now come, and his reasons for not attending sooner are sustained.

The committee appointed last year to prepare a plan for propagating the gospel among the Indians, report, that it appeared to them as yet inexpedient to enter on that important work.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison, Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Brainerd, and Mr. Ewing, be a committee to consult whether any plan can yet be devised for the purpose aforesaid, and make report to the Synod next Tuesday morning.

The Synod appoint for their commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, Dr. Witherspoon, Sproat, Blair, Lewis, Mills, Azariah Horton, Jones, William Tennent, Reed, Hunter, Ewing, Spencer, Roan, Robert Smith, Miller, Montgomery, Duffield, and Close, with the moderator; with elders, Dr. Burnet, Dr. Williamson, Gunning Bedford, William P. Smith, and Maskel Ewing, thirteen of whom to be a quorum; but if

the moderator die or be absent, the first mentioned on the roll in the minute shall have power to call the commission and preside.

Mr. Spencer is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained; his elder, Valentine Duchene, is also present.

Mr. Richard Treat is appointed treasurer for the Synod, and the several Presbyterial treasurers are desired to give him in their accounts by Saturday morning.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Joseph Tate complied with the appointment of last Synod to supply to the southward.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra. (With Mr. Steel.)

The committee appointed to meet at Bedford, report, they accordingly met and their minutes being produced were read, and the Synod approve of what they did except that part of their judgment which disunited Mr. Sacket from the Presbytery of Dutchess and annexed him to the Presbytery of New York, the propriety of which being debated, the question was put approve or not? which was carried in the negative by a great majority; and Mr. Sacket is therefore returned to the Presbytery of Dutchess county.

From Mr. Brainerd's report respecting the school under his inspection, which the Synod agreed to support, we find it hath not been kept up more than half the last year, for which we therefore allow him fifteen pounds, which is half of what was voted last year. But as he expects he shall be able to continue that school the current year, having provided a master for that purpose, voted that he be allowed thirty pounds for the support of it.

Ordered also, That Mr. Brainerd shall receive for the current year the sum of eighteen pounds, being the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the college of New Jersey for the support of an Indian mission, and that he also have twenty pounds from the Synodical treasurer for the continuance of his labours in the year past, in those desolate parts where he has been usefully employed, and the Synod desire Mr. Brainerd to supply in these parts as formerly.

The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at Elizabethtown last October, laid before the Synod the minutes of the convention agreeable to a standing order for that purpose.

As the next general convention is to meet the fourteenth of September at New Haven, the Synod appoint to attend on that occasion the following members, viz: the Rev. Messrs. John Strain, Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Joseph Montgomery, John Craighead, Jacob Kerr, Elihu Spence, John Ewing, Patrick Alison, Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, Dr. Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, John Close, Samuel Buel, Solomon Mead, and Wheeler Case; Dr. Witherspoon is appointed to open the convention, or in case of his absence Dr. Rodgers.

Mr. Azariah Horton has leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

19 *day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Carmichael, elder, has leave to go home.

The committee appointed to dispose of the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the New Jersey College, for support of poor and pious youth in said college, laid their proceedings before us, and it appears

that they have disposed of twenty pounds for the purpose mentioned. There will be in the hands of the treasurer to be disbursed next October, sixty-two pounds, and the Synod appoint as a committee for the present year to attend at the New Jersey college the third Wednesday of August, and dispose of said sum, the Rev. Messrs. Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, Brainerd, Guild, Ewing, Blair, Caldwell, Reed, and the moderator.

The order of Synod respecting a plan laid down by some lay elders at a former session and adopted by this Synod, came under consideration, and it appears from the report of several Presbyteries, that only a few of them have endeavoured to execute this plan; the Synod renew their last year's order with relation to so useful an overture, and earnestly recommend to all their Presbyteries to use their utmost endeavours to secure the success of it before our meeting in May next.

To the question concerning the business and power of the committee of overtures proposed last year, the Synod answer, that committee is intended to introduce business into the Synod in an orderly manner, that they may give advice concerning either the matter or manner of overtures brought to them, but have not power to suppress any thing that comes regularly before them from inferior judicatures according to our known rules, or such overtures and petitions as inferior judicatures or particular persons desire to have laid before this Synod.

A proposal was made last Synod and the consideration of it deferred to this, that we should endeavour to agree upon some plan to prevent irregularities in respect of marriage. And after some conversation on said proposal, agreed to defer it to the next Synod, and it is expected every member will be prepared to give his sentiments on said proposal at that time, stating what irregularities he imagines prevail, and what method he would propose to prevent them.

From the representations that have been made to us concerning the situation of Nova Scotia, we are of opinion that it is not expedient to appoint any missionaries to that province at this time.

A petition from the congregation of Little Britain was brought in and read, requesting to be set off from the Donegall Presbytery and put under the care of the New Castle Presbytery, which is more convenient to them. The Synod grant their petition, but as there are some matters depending between Mr. Hunt and said congregation now before the Donegall Presbytery, the Synod order, that these be there judged and determined notwithstanding this regulation.

Adjourned till three clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Joseph Cowan, Mr. Horton's elder, has leave to go home.

A motion was introduced from the committee of overtures, that the Synod should consider what they would do in case of persons who, breaking off from their body, are not subject to the inspection of any Presbytery, and yet may by their conduct bring a reproach on them, as being supposed to continue still in connexion with them. It was particularly represented that Mr. Kinkaid is by many given out to be a Presbyterian minister, though his conduct is no way cognizable by us. The Synod, after inquiring into the facts, find that he had not only gone off of himself, but was publicly disowned by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and has never been a member of any Presbytery of this Synod since the union of the Synods of New York and Philadelphia, and therefore they are persuaded that this conduct cannot, by any candid person, be considered as having any influence on them whether good or bad.

On this account they see no necessity of either inquiry or vindication as to him, but recommend it to Presbyteries to be precise and accurate in making the dates of the desertion or separation of any of their members, and to give sentence definitely as to the continuance or dissolution of their relation.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Mr. John Montgomery, Mr. Steel's elder.)

Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Montgomery's elder, has leave to go home.

Mr. Halsey is now come, and the reasons given by him for his not coming sooner are sustained.

Mr. McClelland has leave to go home.

Mr. Thomas McCrakin and Mr. John Creary are now come, and their reasons for not coming sooner are sustained.

The committee of overtures have brought in an appeal of Mrs. Jane Tennent, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Lewestown upon several complaints prosecuted by her before them, against her husband the Rev. Mr. Charles Tennent, but as the minutes of the Presbytery are not here, the Synod cannot proceed to hear the appeal now, but order it to lie over till next year, when both parties are required to be ready for trial.

Mr. Robert Patterson has leave to go home.

Adjourned till Monday morning ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Monday, ten o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. James Long, together with his elder, Mr. William Alison, are now come; Mr. Long's absence from Synod till this time, excused.

The supplies ordered at our last session were fulfilled as follows, Mr. Boyd complied with his appointment to Egg Harbour. Mr. Roan complied with his to the branches of Potomac, and communicated in a letter to Mr. Duffield, which was read, a circumstantial account of the situation of that desolate country and his itinerating there. The Synod agree to give Mr. Roan for his great labours in that part eight pounds ten shillings, in addition to what they voted him last year. Messrs. Halsey, Hezekiah James Balch, and McCreary, have complied with theirs; in consideration of Mr. McCreary's great services on his mission to the western frontiers of this province, the Synod vote him an additional allowance of five pounds.

A paper signed by Alexander Miller, containing various matters of complaint against the Presbytery of Hanover, who deposed him May 3d, 1765, was brought in and read, he being present, which is as follows:

To the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia:

Rev. Gentlemen—Be pleased to attend to the case and redress the grievances of a member injured by some members of Hanover Presbytery. The case is as follows:

Mr. Rice brought an affidavit (in what manner proved I know not) to a certain meeting of Hanover Presbytery, insinuating some reflections on my conduct at a certain place.

Though the paper was formed extra-judicially, yet I was willing, and even urged, for an appointment to be made to go and inquire into the rise and ground of said report, which was granted and made. In consequence hereof I rode

four hundred miles to the place, but found no Presbytery, and that Mr. Todd, by his sole authority, prevented the same.

Sometime afterwards, and on the *very day* our Presbytery was judicially appointed to meet at another place, at a very considerable distance, Mr. Todd with two other members went to this, (without judicial appointment) assumed the name and authority of Hanover Presbytery, and even ordained a man, received charges against me, and judged me in my absence, and appointed the time and place of the next meeting: but incapacitated and prevented by their conduct the meeting of the Presbytery according to appointment.

At the time appointed for next meeting I attended, and, after reasoning on their conduct, it was mutually agreed, on certain conditions, to nullify what was past, and that the Presbytery be full at the trial.

I attended at the time and place, but that Presbytery having failed in the performing the conditions stipulated on their part, and finding them resolved to proceed to judgment, contrary to their engagements, I gave in a declinature and appealed to the Synod, and gave them the reasons, and left them.

After which, as appears by their minutes, they judged the validity of my reasons of appeal, examined witnesses against me, formed, published, and ordered a libel to be publicly read against me, and assumed a power to depose me from the ministerial office in my absence, and after I had appealed to the Synod.

The next meeting of Presbytery I applied to the moderator and clerk to have a testimonial of my declinature, reasons of appeal, and a copy of their minutes, but was refused.

This prevented me from applying to you in a way I thought orderly until the third instant, I got a copy of some of their proceedings, of which I complain of the following things, viz:

1. That the Presbytery did not meet to do me justice, according to appointment, Mr. Todd preventing the first, and many of the members not attending or fulfilling their engagements at the last, and that they have acted presbyterially without appointment.

2. That they received accusations, administered oaths to persons against me, and condemned me in my absence, and made themselves judges and parties in some cases.

3. That they judged my reasons of appeal, and appear to blame me for appealing. In this I complain they have acted contrary to the fifth article of the plan of union.

4. That their minutes are dark and imperfect, containing, &c. &c. &c., instead of facts and full history.

5. For saying that the evidences were of unblamable reputation when they knew, or might have known, the contrary, by inspecting their oaths and various representations they have given.

6. That they assumed a power not granted them by warrant from Christ, or ceded to them in the plan of union.

These are some of my complaints, to which I can add many more, and will make it apparent to impartial judges that they are not without foundation; and if you please to do me justice and redress my grievances occasioned by these men, it will very much redound to your credit in the world, the honour of this judicatory, and oblige a sufferer.

(Signed by) ALEX. MILLER, M. A.

As also an attested copy of the Presbytery's minutes relating to his trial and deposition.

After some time spent on this business the further examination of it is deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of Mr. Miller's case resumed. Mr. Miller was asked, whether he was a member of this Synod and subject to its authority and jurisdiction. He answered he was, and referred to the introduction of the paper he laid before the Synod, signed with his name, which is in these words, "Be pleased to attend to the case and redress the grievances of a member injured by some members of Hanover Presbytery."

After Mr. Alexander Miller's complaint was heard, it was deferred till to-morrow morning. Mr. Hart has leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, at nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of Mr. Alexander Miller's complaint resumed, and upon full inquiry the Synod conclude, that as the Presbytery of Hanover are not present, and it has not been made appear before us that they were cited to be present, or informed that Mr. Alexander Miller intended to lodge a complaint against them before the Synod, at this time, we cannot now enter upon the consideration of the merits of the complaint, but order both the Presbytery and Mr. Alexander Miller to attend our next Synod prepared for a full hearing, and, in the mean time, on account of Mr. Miller's unjustifiable delay for some years to enter his complaint before us, the irregularity of his proceedings during that time, and the atrocious nature of the crimes laid to his charge, we do hereby declare him suspended from the exercise of the ministerial office till his complaint can be fully heard.

Mr. Alexander Miller was called in, and the above determination of the Synod read in his hearing, whereupon he gave in a paper, renouncing the authority of the Synod. Upon which the Synod find, that as Mr. Miller was deposed by the Presbytery of Hanover he declined the judgment of that Presbytery and appealed to this Synod: and while we were taking measures to try and issue his complaint, he, in the paper aforesaid, hath renounced our authority. The Synod therefore declare he is not a member of this body, and forbid all their Presbyteries and congregations to employ him.

An application from the Trustees of the College of New Jersey was brought in and read, requesting the assistance of the Synod to raise money for the necessary support of the said College. The Synod looking upon this as a matter of great importance, appoint Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Blair, and Mr. William P. Smith, a committee to make a suitable representation of the state of the college to lay before this Synod, which we may recommend for the information of our several congregations. And the Synod agree, that certain particular persons be appointed to go through our bounds and use their utmost endeavours to obtain subscriptions, in part, and after they have done all they can they shall leave the several subscriptions opened by them with the most convenient ministers, or other proper persons, to have them filled up where any thing more can be done; and each Presbytery is enjoined to take care that every member be active and diligent to forward and complete those subscriptions, of which they are to give an account at our next Synod; and the persons appointed to this business, and the bounds assigned them, are as follows, viz:

Mr. Duffield and Mr. R. Smith to York and Cumberland and parts of Lancaster county above the town; Mr. Spencer and Mr. McDowell to Chester county, and the lower parts of Lancaster county; Mr. Ramsey and Mr. John Miller to Kent, Sussex, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland; Mr. Montgomery

to New Castle county; Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Ewing, and Mr. Sproat to Bucks county and Philadelphia; Mr. Brainerd to Burlington, Gloucester, and Cape May counties; Mr. Tennent, Mr. Read, and the moderator, to Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon, Somerset and parts adjacent; Dr. Rodgers to Essex, Morris, and Sussex counties, and Mr. McWhorter to the bounds of Dutchess Presbytery, provided there appears proper encouragement for an application there; Mr. Blair and Mr. Kerr to Goshen, and parts adjacent; Mr. Craig and Mr. Jackson to the upper parts of Virginia; Mr. Waddle to the lower parts of Virginia; Mr. Patrick Alison and Mr. Montgomery to the Western Shore of Maryland; Mr. Kirkpatrick to Charleston, South Carolina, and such other places as may be expedient for him to apply to; and we appoint to supply his pulpit, New Brunswick Presbytery the month of December; Mr. Watt the month of January; the Presbytery of New York the month of February; Mr. Latta the two first Sabbaths in March, and the first Philadelphia Presbytery the rest of the month of March; Mr. Close the two first Sabbaths of April; Mr. Mills the third and fourth, and Mr. Lewis the fifth Sabbath of April. Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Caldwell are appointed to go and endeavour to obtain subscriptions for the college in the lower parts of Virginia, and their respective Presbyteries are required to supply their pulpits in their absence, and the Synod order, that the above-mentioned persons to make collections for the college, do make report of their success to the trustees of said college at next commencement, except those who are sent upon such distant missions that they cannot finish them before that time.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Agreeable to a former resolution of this Synod to correspond with foreign churches, the following letters were brought in by the gentlemen appointed for that purpose, viz: one by Dr. Rodgers to the Synod of New Holland, another by Mr. Ewing to the church of Geneva, another by Mr. Blair to the church of Scotland, another by Mr. Wilson (who was appointed instead of Mr. Joseph Treat) to the church of Switzerland, another by Mr. McWhorter to the churches in South Carolina, another by Mr. Kirkpatrick to the churches in and about Dublin, another by Mr. Robert Smith to the Synod of seceding ministers in Scotland.

Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Duffield, Mr. Halsey, and Mr. Montgomery, with the aforesaid gentlemen who have made the drafts of those letters, are appointed a committee for correction, that a fair draft of them may be laid before us to-morrow.

Messrs. Mitchell and Foster have leave of absence.

A petition from the congregation of Allentown, in the forks of Delaware, to be taken from under the care of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, and to be put under the care of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, was brought in and read. After the committee on behalf of the congregation and both Presbyteries concerned were heard, it appeared not expedient for the present to grant the prayer of the petition. But the Synod order the first Presbytery of Philadelphia to inquire more particularly into the state and connection of that congregation, and empower said Presbytery to set them off to the Presbytery of New Brunswick if it should appear expedient; or if it should appear more expedient to set off the congregation of Greenwich to the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Presbytery of New Brunswick are empowered to set them off.

Mr. Conary and Mr. Maskell Ewing have leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery book of Donegall was revised and approved, except their meddling with matters of divorce

The first Philadelphia Presbytery book was revised and approved.

The Presbytery book of New York was revised and approved.

The committee appointed to prepare a representation of the college, brought it in, which, after it was read, amended, and approved, was committed to Dr. Witherspoon, to take care that five hundred copies be printed for the use of the Synod.

At the request of Seceding ministers, Dr. Witherspoon moved to have a committee appointed to converse with them, with a view to bring about an union betwixt them and this Synod.

Also a petition from several inhabitants about Marsh Creek was brought in, praying this Synod would use their endeavours to form an union with the Seceders, upon which ordered, that Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Blair, Mr. William Tennent, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. McWhorter, and Mr. Caldwell, three of whom to be a quorum, be a committee for said purpose, and that Dr. Witherspoon be empowered to call the committee at such time and place as may be convenient, and that they have power to adjourn themselves from time to time.

A petition was introduced requesting supplies for Great Egg Harbour, to which place Mr. Clark is appointed the two first Sabbaths of July, and as much longer as he can, and Mr. Van Arsdalen the month of September, and as much longer as he can.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The congregation of Chesnut Level, formerly under the care of the Donegall Presbytery, are, at their own request, put under the care of the New Castle Presbytery.

The committee of the Synod appointed to attend the corporation for the relief of poor Presbyterian ministers, &c. to dispose of a certain sum of money in the hands of that corporation, which was raised in Scotland, and to be laid out by the corporation, in conjunction with the Synod's committee, laid a regular account of their proceedings before the Synod, which was approved.

The Synod agree to continue the same committee the present year.

The New Brunswick Presbytery book was received and approved, except the recording some letters wrote to a distant member.

Mr. Amos Thompson, a minister of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, living in Virginia, is joined to the Presbytery of Donegall.

The Synod taking into their serious consideration the prevalence of irreligion and immorality, the lamentable decay of vital piety, and the threatening aspect of our public affairs, appoint the last Thursday of June to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. Should this day be found inconvenient for any of our ministers, they are allowed to fix on any other day that may suit them better.

As Mr. Oliver Demming, a licensed candidate from an association in Connecticut, and inclining to supply some time in our vacancies, proposes taking a ride to Connecticut, where he informs us it is probable he may stay till he receives ordination, the Synod order should he return ordained, or recommended by any association in that colony, and prosecuting his intention of

visiting the Carolinas, that Mr. Caldwell, one of our clerks, furnish him with properly authenticated testimonials as a missionary from the Synod. Or should Mr. Demming choose to put himself under the care of one of our Presbyteries for ordination, such Presbytery finding him qualified upon trial, are hereby authorized to ordain him, provided he undertakes this mission.

Mr. Caldwell had leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod order their treasurer to pay the sexton of the second Presbyterian church in this city three pounds, for his attendance during the present session.

The Synod vote the Rev. Mr. John Blair moderator, *pro tempore*, in order to his signing a certificate for the present moderator, who is appointed on a mission to Charleston. This being done the former moderator resumed the chair.

The persons appointed to write to the several churches, as mentioned in a former minute, brought in letters which were read, approved, and some of them signed by the moderator, who is authorized to sign the others before he leaves town, they yet being not fairly transcribed. Dr. Rodgers is appointed to transmit the letters to the churches of Holland, Geneva, and Switzerland; and Dr. Alison, Dr. Witherspoon, and the moderator, to transmit the rest.

The Synod agree to give the honourable board of trustees of the New Jersey College, towards supporting a Professor of Divinity in that institution, sixty pounds for the last year, and sixty pounds for the current year, out of the collections made in our congregations for this purpose, agreeable to an order of last session. The fifty pounds lent that honourable board last year is refunded.

The Synod proceeded to the consideration of supplies, but deferred making any appointments till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of supplies was resumed, and the following appointments made for the present year.

The Rev. Messrs. John Harris, John Clark, Jeremiah Halsey, James Latta, Jonathan Elmore, Thomas Lewis, and Josiah Lewis, a licensed candidate, are appointed to supply in the vacancies of Virginia, North Carolina, and those parts of South Carolina under our care, to set off as soon, and spend as much time among them as they conveniently can on this important mission.

Mr. Hezekiah James Balch, a licensed candidate under the care of Donegall Presbytery, is appointed on the same mission, and the Presbytery to which he belongs are authorized to ordain him, if upon trial he acquits himself according to their satisfaction, and accepts a call from Carolina.

Ordered, That our stated clerk give these missionaries proper testimonials.

Mr. James Anderson, a licensed candidate, is appointed to supply at discretion in N. Virginia.

As it is probable that ministers, or licensed candidates from New England, or other parts, may offer themselves to undertake a southern mission, the Synod hereby appoint, should any such offer, the Rev. Dr. Alison, Messrs. Treat,

Ewing, and Sproat, to be a committee to examine their testimonials, and upon obtaining sufficient satisfaction respecting their character and qualifications, to furnish them with proper certificates as missionaries from the Synod to the southward.

The Synod agree to pay those missionaries who supply in poor congregations, thirty shillings each Sabbath they preach.

Ordered, That the New York Presbytery supply the poor vacancies on the frontiers of New Jersey and New York, ten Sabbaths; that Donegall Presbytery supply the western frontier of this province, ten Sabbaths; that Mr. Carmichael supply four Sabbaths on the South Branch of Potomac, and parts adjacent, and Mr. Long three.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday in May, ten of the clock, A. M., to meet at the first Presbyterian Church in New York. Concluded with prayer.

1770.

New York, May 16th, 1770.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Richard Treat, Benjamin Chesnutt, James Sproat, Charles Beatty, John Clark.

From the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. John Ewing, Patrick Alison.

From the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Joseph Montgomery.

From the Presbytery of Lewestown: The Rev. John Bacon.

From the Presbytery of Donegall: The Rev. Robert Cooper.

From the Presbytery of Hanover: The Rev. Joseph Alexander.

From the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Israel Reed, Jeremiah Halsey, William Tennent.

From the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. John Blair, Dr. Rodgers, Azariah Horton, Benjamin Hait, Benjamin Woodruff, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Treat, Aaron Richards, Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, Abner Brush, James Caldwell.

From the Presbytery of Suffolk: The Rev. William Mills, John Close, Elam Potter.

Elders: Messrs. John McCalley, Garrett Noel, Samuel Allen, Peter V. B. Livingston, James Manning, Robert Ogden, Elias Bailey, Aaron Mattison.

Absent: Of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Andrew Hunter, William Ramsey, Enoch Green, Nehemiah Greenman, John Brainerd, Alexander Mitchell, John Griffiths.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. John Steel, John Elder, Joseph Tate, John Simonton, Robert McMordie, James Latta.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Alexander McDowell, James Finley, William McKennan, Robert Smith, John Beard, John Carmichael, William Forster, Andrew Bay, John McCreary, Joseph Smith, Elihu Spencer.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, John Harris, Thomas McCracken.

Of Donegall Presbytery: The Rev. Samuel Thompson, John Roan, George Duffield, John Hogg, John Strain, Amos Thompson, John Slemmons, John Craighead, James Long, James Hunt.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. John Todd, James Waddel, David Rice, Richard Zanchy, James Black, John Brown, Charles Cummings, —— Craig, Thomas Jackson, Henry Patillo, Thomas McCadden, James Crisswell, David Caldwell, Samuel Leak.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Charles McKnight, John Guild, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, John Rosborough, James Lyon, Job Prudden.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. John Pierson, Simon Horton, John Moffat, John Darby, Timothy Jones, Jonathan Elmer, Hugh Knox, Jedediah Chapman, Jacob Green, James Tuttle, Thomas Lewis, Francis Peppard.

Of Dutchess Presbytery: The Rev. John Smith, Chauncey Graham, Wheeler Case, Samuel Sacket, Eliphalet Ball, Elihu Kent, Solomon Mead, Samuel Dunlop, and Joseph Peck.

Of Suffolk Presbytery: The Rev. Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, Samuel Buel, James Brown, Nehemiah Barker, Benjamin Talmage, Samson Occum, David Rose, Benjamin Goldsmith.

By reason of the death of Mr. Kirkpatrick, our last year's moderator, the Synod was opened by Mr. John Blair, who was moderator the year before, with a sermon from 2 Cor. iv. 2.

The Rev. Mr. Alexander McWhorter was chosen moderator, and Messrs. Joseph Treat and Jeremiah Halsey clerks.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

17*th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The Rev. Dr. Alison and Samuel Kennedy are now come, and their reasons for not attending yesterday were sustained. Mr. William Arman, Mr. Kennedy's elder, is also come.

The reasons which were given by the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Alexander, John Bacon, Charles Beatty, Israel Reed, Samuel Kennedy, Nathan Kerr, Benjamin Woodruff, Azel Roe, Abner Brush, Joseph Treat, and William Mills, for their absence from the last session of the Synod, were sustained.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, since our last Synod they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry Mr. James Boyd and Mr. James Watt. Mr. Boyd being present took his seat.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery report, they have ordained Mr. Samuel Eakin.

New Castle Presbytery report, they have licensed to preach as candidates Messrs. James Wilson and Daniel Jones; and Mr. Daniel McCleland was dismissed from them to go into New England.

Lewestown Presbytery report, that they have licensed to preach as a candidate Mr. William Mackey Tennent; and have suspended from the work of the gospel ministry Mr. Charles Tennent.

The Presbytery of Donegall report, they have ordained Messrs. Hezekiah James Balch and John King; and have licensed to preach as a candidate Mr. Hugh Vance.

Hanover Presbytery report, they have ordained Mr. Hezekiah Balch.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. William Kirkpatrick was removed by death September 8, 1769.

New York Presbytery report, they have ordained Mr. William Woodhull; and that Mr. Abner Reeve has withdrawn himself from their Presbytery, and declared himself an Independent; and that Mr. John Maltby is dismissed to join the Presbytery of South Carolina; and that they have received Mr. A. Lewis, a candidate from the Association of New Haven in Connecticut.

The Synod appoint for a committee of overtures the Rev. Messrs. Sproat, Beatty, Patrick Alison, Montgomery, Bacon, Alexander, Kennedy, Cooper, Richards, Roe, and Mills; with elders, Messrs. Allen and Mattison, to meet

to-morrow morning here, at six o'clock, and afterwards as business may require.

Mr. Thomas Smith is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, and also for his absence from the last Synod, sustained; his elder is Mr. Lucas Covenhoven.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Blair are appointed a committee to examine the second Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Messrs. Ewing and Patrick Alison, are appointed a committee to examine the New Brunswick Presbytery book.

The Presbytery books of Hanover, Lewestown, Donegall, New Castle, first Philadelphia, New York, Suffolk, and Dutchess, are not present.

Ordered, That these Presbyteries take care that their books be brought in next Synod.

The commission of the Synod for the last year report, that they have met and will lay their minutes before the Synod as soon as the Synod shall call for them.

The Synod appoint for a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, John Ewing, Dr. Witherspoon, James Sproat, John Blair, Thomas Lewis, William Mills, Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, William Tennent, Israel Reed, Andrew Hunter, John Roan, Robert Smith, John Miller, Joseph Montgomery, George Duffield, Wheeler Case, and Charles Beatty, with the moderator; with elders, Messrs. Robert Ogden, Peter V. B. Livingston, Samuel Allen, and Aaron Mattison, thirteen of whom to be a quorum; but if the moderator should die or be absent, the first mentioned on the roll in the minute shall have power to call the commission and preside.

Dr. Witherspoon is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner sustained.

The Synod agrees to enter on the consideration of supplying the distant vacancies, to-morrow in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The treasurer for the Synod is continued, and he is ordered at some convenient time to lay before the present Synod his accounts for the last year.

The order of Synod respecting the execution of the plan laid by some lay-elders, at the session in 1766, and adopted by the Synod, came again under consideration; and it appears from the reports of the several Presbyteries, that some of them have been considerably successful in endeavouring to carry the said plan into execution, and others have been deficient in their endeavours to execute the same. The Synod orders, that the several Presbyteries take care once every year to make a particular inquiry of their members respecting the execution of every article contained in this so useful a plan, and make report to the next Synod of the same.

The proposal that was made to the Synod of 1766, that we should endeavour to agree upon some plan to prevent irregularities that occur in marriage, which was deferred to this session, came under consideration. The members according to an order gave their sentiments on this subject, and Messrs. Blair and Halsey are appointed to bring in a minute respecting this affair at our next *sederunt*.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Woodhull and Spencer are now come, and their reasons for not coming sooner are sustained.

Dr. Williamson, Mr. Ewing's elder, and Dr. Boyd, Mr. Alison's elder, are also come.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute respecting the irregularities that occur in marriages, brought in the same, which being read and maturely examined, it appears that the difficulties that will probably attend the execution of any general plan for the prevention of said irregularities, were so great and numerous that they may be expected to render it abortive; it was therefore concluded by a great majority to dismiss the whole affair.

Mr. McKnight is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, and also for his absence from the last Synod sustained.

The commission of the Synod for the last year reported that they had met, and they laid before the Synod the minutes of their proceedings; after the reading of said minutes, Mr. Montgomery, one of the members of the commission who dissented from their first judgment, prayed leave to bring in his complaint against said judgment, which, after mature consideration, was carried in the negative.

Messrs. Tennent's and Read's reasons for not attending the commission, sustained.

Adjourned to three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, That Mr. Treat, the treasurer of the Synod, pay Mr. Montgomery twenty shillings for copying the minutes of the commission of Synod, which met in Philadelphia.

The treasurer is ordered to pay the expenses for bringing the Synod's book from Woodbridge to New York.

The Synod entered on the consideration of supplies for the distant vacancies in the Carolinas and Georgia. Inquiry was made whether the last year's appointments of supplies for the southern colonies were fulfilled, and it appears that Mr. Josiah Lewis had complied with said appointment, but that none of the others had complied with the same. The reasons of Messrs. Clark and Halsey, (who were the only members of those appointed last year that were present,) for not complying with the said appointments were sustained.

A supplication was brought in from Long Cane, in South Carolina, that Mr. Josiah Lewis, or some other, may be appointed to supply them a twelve-month, in order to a settlement among them.

A call for Mr. Josiah Lewis from Centre congregation and Hopewell, in North Carolina, was brought in and read.

A supplication for supplies from Hitchcock and Cartridge Creeks, in Anson county, North Carolina, was also brought in and read.

A supplication from Briery River, in Virginia, for supplies, was also read.

A supplication from Carthy's Settlement and Fourth Creek, in North Carolina, was also read.

A supplication to the Synod for stated supplies from Briar Creek, in Georgia, was read.

Mr. Josiah Lewis, a licensed candidate, of New Castle Presbytery, is appointed to supply at Long Cane settlements six months; three months at

Briar Creek, in Georgia; and three months at discretion in North and South Carolina; and the Presbytery of New Castle is ordered to ordain him, if the way is clear, as soon as convenient.

Mr. Azel Roe is appointed to itinerate in Virginia and the Carolinas; to preach the gospel, ordain elders, and administer the sacraments of baptism, and the Lord's Supper; and the Presbytery of New York is ordered to supply his pulpit during his absence.

Mr. John Close is also appointed to itinerate in Virginia and the Carolinas, for the same purposes, and the Synod order the Presbytery of Suffolk to supply his pulpit during his absence.

Mr. Manning, Mr. Roe's elder, has leave to go home.

Adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Hunter, Mr. Blair's elder, is now come.

Mr. Chauncy Graham is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner are sustained.

The Presbytery of Dutchess report, that they have ordained the Rev. Messrs. Ichabod Lewis, and Samuel Mills, to the work of the gospel ministry since our last, and have dismissed the Rev. Mr. Joseph Peck from their body.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of Dutchess call upon Mr. Bay, now residing within their bounds, to produce a regular dismission from New Castle Presbytery, and to join their Presbytery.

Ordered, That the call from Centre congregation and Hopewell, in North Carolina, to Mr. Josiah Lewis, be put into the hands of Mr. Montgomery, in order to be presented by New Castle Presbytery to Mr. Lewis.

Dr. Rodgers is desired by the Synod to write to the Rev. Mr. Prime, at Huntingdon, giving him an account of the distressed state of the churches to the southward, and pray him to supply the congregation as much as he can in Mr. Close's absence.

Mr. Bay is now come; his reasons for not coming sooner, and also for his absence last year, sustained.

Mr. Robert Henry, Mr. Bay's elder, is also come.

Mr. McCreary is appointed to supply in the Carolinas for six months, to set off as soon as possible; and it is recommended that he spend a considerable part of his time at Carthy's Settlement, and Fourth Creek; and the Presbytery of New Castle is ordered to supply his pulpit during his absence.

And inasmuch as appointments in times past have been too frequently not fulfilled according to expectation, it is enjoined on each of these gentlemen, who are appointed to supply to the southward, that they fulfil said appointments on pain of the Synod's censure.

And if Mr. Josiah Lewis should not fulfil his appointment to Long Cane, Messrs. Roe and Close are ordered to supply at Long Cane, each of them three months.

Mr. Beatty is ordered to supply Mr. McCreary's pulpit two Sabbaths; Mr. Chesnutt two; Mr. Hunter two; and Mr. Ramsey one Sabbath.

Mr. Thomas Smith is also appointed to supply Mr. Close's pulpit the first and second Sabbaths in September.

Mr. William Tennent is also appointed to supply Mr. Roe's pulpit two Sabbaths; Dr. Rodgers the first Sabbath in July; and Mr. Joseph Treat the first Sabbath in August; and Mr. Simon Horton three Sabbaths between this and our next Synod; and Dr. Witherspoon the second Sabbath in August.

Mr. Patrick Alison is appointed to supply in Virginia and the Carolinas, if circumstances admit, and to go out upon his mission in the fall.

Mr. Nathaniel Niles, a candidate licensed by Berkshire association, in New England, who proposes to put himself under the care of the New York Presbytery, is appointed to spend the summer and fall seasons in the western frontiers of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and the winter in the Carolinas; and he is ordered to keep an exact account of what moneys he receives from the several vacancies that he may supply in said western frontiers, and if the said moneys should not amount to thirty shillings provincial currency, per Sabbath, the Synod agree to make up the deficiency out of the moneys in the hands of their treasurer.

Messrs. Elder, Tate, and Steel are appointed to supply between Augusta Fort and Juniata, and places adjacent, each two Sabbaths before next Synod.

Mr. Covenhoven has leave to go home.

The moderator is ordered to furnish the members appointed to supply to the southward the necessary credentials.

Adjourned to ten o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 21*st. Ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that in compliance with an order of Synod last year, they had, in conjunction with the Presbytery of New Brunswick, inquired particularly into the state and connections of the congregation of Allentown, in the forks of Delaware, and it is the unanimous opinion of both Presbyteries that it is at present most subservient to the interests of religion in those parts, for the Presbytery of New Brunswick to take under their care, not only the congregation of Allentown, but also the congregation of Mount Bethel, both which are in the forks of Delaware, and both which have been under the care of the first Philadelphia Presbytery. The Synod therefore order the Presbytery of New Brunswick to take both the said congregations under their care for the future.

The consideration of supplies resumed.

Mr. Harris is ordered to supply at Hitchcock and Cartridge Creek, in Anson county, North Carolina, three months; in Virginia, and other parts of the Carolinas, at discretion, as much as he conveniently can.

The consideration of the report of the Synod's commission deferred till three o'clock in the afternoon.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Sacket is disunited from the Presbytery of Dutchess county and annexed to the Presbytery of New York.

Mr. Ogden, Mr. Caldwell's elder, not being able to attend, Mr. Cornelius Netfield takes his seat, who was chosen by the session in his place.

Doctor Alison, Messrs. Ewing, Sproat, Richard Treat, and Beatty, are appointed a committee to visit Mr. Brainerd's school next fall, and Mr. Brainerd is desired to meet the committee on the second Wednesday of June in Philadelphia, and are impowered to draw upon the treasurer for such moneys as they shall judge the exigencies of the school shall require, and make report to our next Synod.

It is ordered, that Mr. Brainerd receive for the ensuing year, the sum of eighteen pounds, being the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the college of New Jersey for the support of the Indian mission, and that he have also twenty pounds from the Synodical treasurer for the continuance of his labours the ensuing year, in those desolate parts where he has been so usefully employed.

Doctor Witherspoon reports, that the committee appointed at our last Synod to converse with the Seceders, in order to an union betwixt them and us, by reason of several disappointments have not met. The Synod therefore appoint Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Blair, Tennent, R. Smith, McWhorter, Caldwell, Mills, and Joseph Treat, three of whom to be a quorum, to be a committee for the same purpose, to meet on the second Wednesday in August at New York, and that they have power to adjourn themselves from time to time.

The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at New Haven in September last, laid before the Synod the minutes of the convention.

As the next general convention is to meet at Elizabethtown, the first Wednesday of October, at eleven o'clock, the Synod appoint to attend on that occasion, the Rev. Messrs. Beatty, Sproat, Brainerd, Ewing, Montgomery, William Foster, Bacon, Spencer, Miller, Duffield, King, William Tennent, Dr. Witherspoon, Hait, Halsey, Jones, Horton, Dr. Rodgers, Treat, McWhorter, Blair, Caldwell, Graham, Lewis, Mills, and Tallmage.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. John Moore, Mr. Richard's elder, is now come.

The Synod proceeded to consider the report of the commission of the Synod.

Mr. Ewing brought in a complaint against the judgment of the said commission, which was in part debated, and the further consideration of it was deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Woodhull is gone home.

Mr. Ewing's complaint against the judgment of the commission, resumed.

Mr. Ewing complains against the commission; that they received charges against him which were vague and indeterminate. The Synod agrees that these charges are rather deficient in point of specialty, but are of opinion that the commission acted with prudence and integrity in receiving said charges, inasmuch as they endeavoured to reduce them to a specialty, and as Mr. Ewing submitted so far as to plead to them, and as the particular circumstances of the first and third Presbyterian congregations in Philadelphia were viewed by them as so critical as in their judgment required an immediate discussion of the affair.

Yet the Synod orders, that all their judicatures shall, for the future, be particularly careful not to receive or judge of any charges but such as shall be seasonably reduced to a specialty in the complaint laid before them.

The further consideration of Mr. Ewing's complaint deferred till the afternoon. Mr. Close has leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Roe has leave to go home. Mr. William Tennent, jun'r. being present, is desired to sit as a correspondent. Mr. Hunter, Mr. Blair's elder, has leave to go home.

The Synod proceeded to the further consideration of Mr. Ewing's complaint.

Mr. Ewing and the members of the commission were fully heard upon the subject of this complaint.

The further consideration of this affair deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, A. M. nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of Mr. Ewing's complaint resumed. The issue of this affair deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Potter and Bacon are gone home without leave.

Mr. Ewing's complaint resumed.

The first clause of the judgment of the commission, which is in the following words, "that Mr. Ewing has, to several persons, called Mr. Eakin a liar, a dirty liar, or some such opprobrious terms, that he did this without being able to assign a sufficient reason for the same," was maturely considered, and after a careful examination of all the evidence laid before us, the Synod concludes that there was sufficient foundation for this first clause in the commission's judgment, and therefore they approve the same.

The second clause in the aforesaid judgment which is as follows, "that he has shown in this matter so much untenderness towards the truth, as to give too much ground to impeach his veracity," was also maturely considered, and all the evidence laid before us duly weighed, and upon the whole it does not appear to the Synod that there is sufficient reason to impeach Mr. Ewing's veracity. Therefore this clause of their judgment is not approved.

The third clause of the aforesaid judgment, which is in the following words, "that he has shown a degree of resentment which the commission highly disapprove," was also duly considered and approved.

And therefore, although there does not appear sufficient reason to impeach Mr. Ewing's veracity, yet it is the unanimous judgment of this Synod, that Mr. Ewing has, by his unchristian treatment of Mr. Eakin, and the resentment he has shown in this affair, merited the censure of this body, and they appoint the moderator to admonish him from the chair.

Mr. Mattison has leave to go home.

The minutes of the committee appointed to dispose of the interest of the moneys in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college, for the support of poor and pious youth, having been forgot, it is reported that they disposed of twenty-five pounds, and that there will be in the treasurer's hands next October, sixty-seven pounds; and the Synod appoint for a committee for the present year, to attend at New Jersey college, the third Wednesday of August next, and dispose of said sum, or as much as shall be deemed necessary, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, John Guild, John Ewing, Elihu Spencer, James Caldwell, Jeremiah Halsey, and Israel Reed, *any* three of whom to be a quorum, and to have full power to act.

It appears by the accounts of the Synod's treasurer that there is in his hands seven pounds, seventeen shillings and eight pence, belonging to the college, which is ordered to be paid to the treasurer of New Jersey college.

It appears, also, by the same accounts, that there is in the hands of our treasurer two hundred and twelve pounds, eight shillings and ten pence of the moneys collected for the use of the Synod.

The gentlemen of the commission and Mr. Ewing were called in, and the judgment of the Synod respecting Mr. Ewing's complaint was read to them. All concerned acquiesced in this judgment, except Mr. Ewing, and he is allowed time, till the beginning of next *sederunt*, to deliberate on this affair.

Inquiry was made, whether the gentlemen appointed to set on foot subscriptions for the college of New Jersey had complied with that appointment. And it appears that the members appointed to this service had been very diligent and successful in the same. But as no application has yet been made in some places, and in others a more universal application than has yet been made might probably be successful, the Synod orders the members appointed to this service to continue the subscriptions already begun, and also begin others where none has yet been set on foot, and that the several Presbyteries take care that this order be executed, and that the moneys subscribed be duly collected and transmitted to Dr. Witherspoon, or to the treasurer of New Jersey college, and the clerk is ordered to furnish such Presbyteries as desire it with copies of this minute.

Ordered, That Mr. Ewing's appeal against the second Philadelphia Presbytery be considered to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 24th, at nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Graham has leave to go home. Dr. Boyd has leave to go home.

Mr. Ewing having deliberated on the judgment of the Synod respecting him, declared his readiness to submit to the same. He was, therefore, according to the order, admonished from the chair.

Mr. Ewing signified to the Synod that he desired his appeal from the judgment of the second Philadelphia Presbytery might be withdrawn. Dr. Alison moved, that if this was agreed to, a protest might be admitted at his instance, as representing the said Presbytery; the appeal was withdrawn, but the proceedings of that Presbytery had been injuriously treated upon the occasion, both in conversation and by papers put upon record, and that Dr. Alison himself had been particularly blamed, and therefore the Synod should not only declare the appeal fallen from, but give him, Dr. Alison, an extract of this minute, that the fact as it stands may be recorded in the Presbytery's book.

Mr. Ewing and Dr. Alison have leave to go home.

Mr. Boyd has gone home without leave.

Ordered, That Mr. Ewing, the stated clerk of the Synod, state his accounts, and lay them before the next Synod.

Mr. Alison has leave to go home.

The members appointed to transmit the letters to foreign churches report, that the letters have been transmitted according to order, but no answers are yet received.

Messrs. Elihu Spencer, William Ramsey, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Montgomery, and James Caldwell, are appointed a committee for the present year to attend the corporation for the relief of poor Presbyterian ministers and their widows.

Ordered, To pay the Sexton forty shillings for his services during the present session of Synod.

A letter from the Presbytery of South Carolina, signifying their desire to unite with this Synod, and requesting to be informed of the terms on which such

union may be obtained, was brought in and read. It was agreed to send them the following letter in answer to their proposal:

"Rev. and dear Brethren:—We received your letter by the Rev. Mr. Caldwell, proposing an union of your Presbytery with this Synod, and asking the conditions on which it may be obtained. The Synod took your proposal into consideration, and are unanimously of opinion that the union would be for the interest of religion and the comfort of the whole body, and therefore agreed that it should take place for all ecclesiastical purposes, and expect that your Presbytery will attend the meeting of the Synod with all the regularity that your situation will admit. The conditions which we require, are only what we suppose you are already agreed in, viz., that all your ministers acknowledge and adopt as the standard of doctrine, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and the Directory as the plan of your worship and discipline. The Church of Scotland is considered by this Synod as their pattern in general; but we have not as yet expressly adopted by resolution of Synod, or bound ourselves to any other of the standing laws or forms of the Church of Scotland, than those above mentioned, intending to lay down such rules for ourselves upon Presbyterian principles in general, as circumstances should from time to time show to be expedient.

"The only difficulty that has been made in this matter is, that we are not certain whether the corporation of the Widows' Fund will think it safe to admit the members of your Presbytery, from their distance and other circumstances. It is, however, the opinion of the members of this Synod, that you either do not intend to ask admission to this fund, which is not mentioned in your letter, or that you are both able and willing to come in upon such terms as will not in the least injure the stock or embarrass the management of that corporation.

"After receiving this letter, we expect you will send your answer by such of your members as may attend the next meeting of our Synod, which is to be at Philadelphia the third Wednesday of May, 1771."

The moderator is ordered to make out a copy of this, properly attested, and deliver it into the hands of Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Caldwell, to be transmitted to the moderator of the Presbytery of South Carolina by the first safe opportunity.

A petition from some members of Hanover Presbytery, requesting that they may be erected into a distinct Presbytery, was brought in and read. The Synod agree to grant the prayer of the said petition, and the Rev. Mr. Hugh McCadden, Henry Pattillo, James Criswell, Joseph Alexander, Hezekiah James Balch, and Hezekiah Balch, are erected into a Presbytery, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Orange, in North Carolina, and that their first meeting be at Hawfields, the first Wednesday of September next, and that the Rev. Henry Pattillo open the Presbytery with a sermon. But the vacancies in these parts are allowed the same liberty of applying to the Synod for supplies as they have had in several cases heretofore.

A petition from the congregations of Lancaster and Leacock, requesting that they may be set off from the Presbytery of Donegall, and be put under the care of New Castle Presbytery, was brought in and read. The Synod agree to grant the prayer of the said petition, and the Presbytery of New Castle is ordered to take the care of those congregations for the future.

A request from the Presbytery of New Castle for advice in an affair respecting Mr. Sampson Smith, was brought in, and after it was maturely considered, the Synod is of opinion that Mr. Sampson Smith ought to be continued under suspension till it appears to the Presbytery that he has taken all proper pains to clear himself from all suspicions respecting his conduct at Chestnut Level.

A reference from the first Presbytery of Philadelphia respecting this ques-

tion, viz. Whether a man may lawfully marry his wife's brother's daughter, was brought in and read, and the consideration of it deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An application was made in behalf of the Presbyterian church in Albany, representing that they are deeply involved in debt, and praying that the Synod would recommend them to the assistance of charitable and well disposed persons within their bounds. The Synod referred it to Messrs. P. V. B. Livingston and Elihu Spencer, as a committee to examine and make report of the state of their accounts. The said committee reported, that it appears by the papers produced to them by Mr. Robert Henry, one of the elders of said church, that they had erected a building for the public worship of God, the expense of which amounted to £2813 9*s.* 3*d.* York currency, that they received from sundry subscribers £811 10*s.* 8*d.* for that purpose, which left the sum of £2001 18*s.* 6*d.* deficiency, to be paid by three persons only, of which Mr. Henry has paid out of his own pocket £1086 13*s.* 6*d*, and is liable for part of what still remains unpaid of said debt. The Synod, therefore, cheerfully and cordially recommend them to the assistance of all well disposed charitable persons within their bounds.

The further consideration of the reference from the first Philadelphia Presbytery deferred till next year.

The Donegall Presbytery petitioned the Synod for supplies. Mr. Alexander Miller is appointed to supply, next fall, eight Sabbaths in the bounds of that Presbytery.

The Presbytery of New York are appointed to supply on the frontiers of New Jersey and New York, and the Synod agree to pay those who supply them, out of their funds.

The Synod agree to grant to the Presbytery of Donegall and New York, each fifteen pounds, and they are required to husband the money, and improve it to the best advantage.

The committees appointed to examine the Presbytery books, not having opportunity to examine them, they are referred to next Synod.

Mr. Bay requested to review a former minute respecting him, which is deferred till next Synod.

Adjourned to meet at the first Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, on the third Wednesday in May next, at ten o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1771.

Philadelphia, May 15*th*, 1771, *at* 3 *o'clock in the afternoon.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment.

Ministers present, of the Presbytery of New York: the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Azariah Horton, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, John Blair, Francis Peppard, Jedidiah Chapman, Alexander McWhorter.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Charles McKnight, Jeremiah Halsey.

Of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia: the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Charles Beatty, James Sproat, Andrew Hunter, William Ramsey, Benjamin Chestnutt, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd.

Of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia: the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Treat, John Ewing, James Latta, John Simonton, Dr. Francis Alison.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: the Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, John Carmichael, William McKennan, Joseph Montgomery, John McCreary, Joseph Smith, Elihu Spencer, William Foster.

Of the Presbytery of Lewestown: the Rev. Mr. John Miller.

Of the Presbytery of Donegall: the Rev. Messrs. John Roan, John Strain, John Craighead, Robert Cooper.

Elders present: Dr. William Burnet, Messrs. Matthias Hatfield, Thomas Bourne, Richard Walker, Joseph Ogden, James McNair, John Johnson, John McElroy, John Wilson, William Patterson, Moses Scott, Thomas McCall.

Ministers absent, of New York Presbytery: the Rev. Benjamin Hait, Benjamin Woodruff, Joseph Treat, Aaron Richards, Nathan Kerr, Abner Brush, Simon Horton, John Moffat, John Derby, Timothy Jones, Jonathan Elmer, Hugh Knox, Jacob Green, James Tuttle, Thomas Lewis.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Messrs. Thomas Smith, Israel Reed, Samuel Kennedy, John Guild, John Hanna, John Rosborough, James Lyon, Job Prudden.

Of first Presbytery of Philadelphia: the Rev. Messrs. Nehemiah Greenman, Enoch Green, James Watt.

Of second Presbytery of Philadelphia: the Rev. Messrs. John Steel, John Elder, Robert McMordie, Samuel Eakin.

Of Suffolk Presbytery, the whole absent.

Of New Castle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. James Finley, Andrew Bay, John Beard.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston.

Of Donegall Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, George Duffield, John Hogg, Amos Thomson, James Long, John Slemmons, Joseph Bay, James Harris.

Of Dutchess Presbytery, the whole absent.

The Synod was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. McWhorter, the last year's moderator, from Acts xx. 24.

Mr. Ramsey was chosen moderator, and Mr. Roe and Mr. Latta, clerks.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

16*th day. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that the Rev. Mr. John Griffith is removed by death since our last.

The New Castle Presbytery report that they have ordained Mr. John Woodhull and Mr. Josiah Lewis, who being present took their seats; and have licensed Mr. Thomas Smith to preach the gospel, and have restored the Rev. Mr. Sampson Smith, who being present took his seat.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have licensed to preach the gospel, John Simpson and William Shank.

The Presbytery of Donegall report, that they have received as a member the Rev. Mr. Joseph Reah, lately from Ireland.

Mr. Joseph Lewis reports that Mr. Samuel Black is dead.

The Presbytery of New York report, that the Rev. John Pierson was removed by death, August 23, 1770; and the Rev. James Tuttle, December 25, 1770; and that they have ordained the Rev. Alexander Miller, Oliver Dunning, and John Murdoch.

The Lewestown Presbytery report, that the Rev. Charles Tennent and Thomas McCrackin have been removed by death since last Synod, and that Mr. John Bacon is dismissed from them, and removed to Boston.

The Suffolk Presbytery report, that they have licensed to preach the gospel, Mr. Joseph Avery.

Messrs. Hunter, Tate, Robert Smith, John Miller, Cooper, McKnight, Horton, Close, ministers, and Dr. Burnet, Joseph Ogden, Mr. Patterson, and Richard Walker, are appointed a committee of overtures, and ordered to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock.

Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Roe are appointed a committee to examine the second Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Mr. Blair and Mr. Chapman are appointed to examine the New Brunswick Presbytery book.

Mr. McWhorter and Mr. John Miller to examine the book of the Presbytery of Donegall.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Sproat to examine the Presbytery book of New Castle.

Mr. Roan and Mr. Strain to examine the book of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Mr. Treat and Mr. Foster to examine the Presbytery book of New York.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Patrick Alison, John Ewing, Alexander McWhorter, James Sproat, John Blair, Thomas Lewis, William Mills, Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, William Tennent, Israel Read, Andrew Hunter, Elihu Spencer; and elders, Dr. Burnet, Captain Bourne, Dr. Lyon, Messrs. Ogden and McCullough, thirteen of whom shall be a quorum; but if the moderator should die or be absent, the first mentioned on the roll in the minute shall have power to call the commission and preside.

Mr. Treat is continued treasurer for this ensuing year, and desired to be ready to lay his accounts, for the last year, before the Synod.

Messrs. Lewis, Roe, and Close complied with their appointments to the southern mission.

The order of the Synod last year, that Mr. Bay should be dismissed from New Castle, and join Dutchess County Presbytery, was not complied with.

Mr. McCreary's reasons for not supplying, according to the order of last Synod, were sustained.

Mr. Patrick Alison reports, that it was not convenient for him to take a journey to the southward to supply the vacancies there.

Mr. Niles undertook the mission assigned him by the last Synod, but was prevented by sickness from fulfilling it.

Mr. Tate was prevented by indisposition from fulfilling his appointment.

The Synod are informed Mr. John Harris fulfilled his appointment to the southward.

The committee appointed to visit Mr. Brainerd's school, report that they did not meet, because they understood that the school was broke up for the present.

Ordered, That an exact list of the members of the Synod, with the several candidates and congregations under their care, be printed, with an account of the disbursements of money collected to be disposed of by the Synod; and for this purpose the following persons are appointed a committee to prepare said list, Messrs. Treat, Caldwell, John Miller, Cooper, Halsey, Latta, Roe, Carmichael, Close, and Josiah Lewis, to meet to-morrow morning at half after eight o'clock, at this place.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M Concluded with prayer.

16th day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

As Dr. Rodgers has received letters from some of the foreign churches, he is ordered to lay them before the Synod to-morrow morning, and any other members who may have received such letters are ordered to do the same.

The committee appointed to meet the corporation for the widows' fund report, that they have been unable from indisposition, inclemency of weather, or ignorance of the time of the corporation's meeting, to form a quorum to meet with said corporation since our last Synod.

Messrs. Elihu Spencer, Alexander McWhorter, Joseph Montgomery, James Caldwell, and the moderator, are appointed a committee to meet with the committee of the corporation for the widows' fund, and are empowered to settle with said corporation, and ordered to make a report of their transactions to the Synod before the end of their present sessions.

Dr. Rodgers reports that he sent the Synod's letter to the moderator of the Presbytery of South Carolina, but has received no answer.

It is reported to us that the brethren of North Carolina, who requested last Synod to be set off as a Presbytery by the name of the Orange Presbytery, have met and proceeded to business agreeably to the order of Synod.

Mr. Alexander Miller's reasons for not complying fully with the appointment of last Synod, are sustained.

The Synod think it expedient that, agreeably to their request, the New Castle Presbytery ordain Mr. Thomas Read, a candidate residing in their bounds.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, nine o'clock, A .M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. John Slemmons is now come, and his reasons of absence since the beginning of our present sessions, sustained.

Dr. Rodgers, agreeable to the order of our last *sederunt*, delivered into the Synod a letter from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and another letter from the Synod of North Holland, which were read.

A letter was also received from the Rev. Mr. Elam Potter, an absent member of this body, signifying his readiness to go upon a mission to Virginia and Carolina, and requesting the Synod to furnish him with credentials for that purpose.

A reference from the second Presbytery of Philadelphia was brought in, in the following words:

"The Presbytery took Mr. Eakin's affair under consideration, and as he has deserted his pastoral charge, and his character labours under grievous reports of gross immoralities, and he has not thought proper to attend this judicature, though twice cited to appear and vindicate his character and conduct, but by a letter sent to Dr. Alison, to be communicated to this Presbytery, desired that his name might be struck out of their book, as he was determined never hereafter to have any pastoral charge under the care of this Presbytery, or under the care of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the Presbytery calling to mind the difficulties in which they have already been involved by his conduct, judged it most expedient to refer his case to the Synod, and desire this reference may be laid before them as soon as there is a convenient opportunity."

The above reference was taken under consideration, and the Synod, after mature deliberation upon it, appoint Tuesday next, at three o'clock, for hear-

ing and issuing that matter, and order that Mr. Eakin be cited, and that Dr. Rodgers prepare a citation, specifying the charges against him, *Mr. Eakin*, to be signed by the moderator, and bring it in at our next *sederunt;* and appoint Messrs. Blair, Caldwell, and Dr. Burnet, a committee to prepare matters and cite witnesses, and order the committee to take care that Mr. Eakin be served with the citation.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Prime, directed to the moderator, signifying the difficulty which he, together with some of his brethren of Suffolk Presbytery, labour under on account of an order of Synod respecting the ordination of ministers, *sine titulo*, and requesting some relief in that matter, was brought in and read, and the consideration of it was deferred.

Adjourned to meet at three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Boyd obtained leave to go home.

Dr. Alison brought in a letter from the Synod of Geneva, which was read.

The Synod entered upon the consideration of Mr. Ebenezer Prime's letter, and after maturely deliberating thereon, the Synod appoint Dr. Francis Alison, Dr. Rodgers, and Mr. McWhorter, as a committee to draw up a minute in answer to said letter, and to lay it before the Synod to-morrow morning.

Mr. Blair brought in an overture in writing, proposing a committee to inquire into the state of religion, and means for promoting it, in our bounds, which was ordered to lie upon the table for further consideration.

Dr. Rodgers, according to the order of last *sederunt*, prepared and brought in a citation for Mr. Eakin, which was signed by the moderator, and is as follows:

"Sir:—The second Presbytery of Philadelphia have referred your case to the Synod, who have taken it under their consideration; have appointed Tuesday next, at three o'clock, P. M. to hear and issue it, at which time you are hereby cited to attend, at the first Presbyterian Church in this city, and although we presume you cannot be ignorant of the scandalous reports spread abroad respecting you, as you have been twice cited to attend the Presbytery to vindicate your character in those instances, yet that you may have another opportunity for this purpose, we hereby inform you, they are the following, viz. antenuptial fornication; lying with respect to your marriage; suborning witnesses; and deserting the work of the ministry, in direct violation of your ordination vows. Your attendance is expected at the above time and place to answer to the said charges.

"You are to consider this as the last citation you are to expect on this head; the Synod will therefore proceed to hear and issue the matter whether you attend or not. Signed by order.

"*May* 17*th*, 1771."

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Witherspoon is now come, and the reasons he gave for not attending earlier in the session, are sustained. Mr. Peppard obtained leave to go home.

The committee appointed yesterday to draw up a minute in answer to Mr. Prime's letter, brought it in. It was approved, and is as follows:

"In answer to the Rev. Mr. Prime's letter, it appears, that he and his

brethren, in whose name he writes, are agreed with this Synod in sentiments, that in sending forth ministers to labour in Christ's vineyard, we should lay hands suddenly on no man, but should use all Scriptural methods to be satisfied of their piety, learning, prudence, and aptness to teach. And they are further agreed with us to make trial by hearing candidates for the work of the ministry preach, pray, and expound the Scriptures, previous to ordination, at least before their ordination, that we may be satisfied in our minds, that they have ministerial gifts to qualify them for their duty in that sacred character: that we should endeavour by private conversation, and a continuance of such trials, to come to a greater satisfaction of their aptness to teach, and other necessary qualifications. And the Synod are firmly persuaded that our method of licensing them to preach, by way of probation for the gospel ministry, before ordination, is grounded on general directions given by the apostle, that we should lay hands suddenly on no man, but should commit this to faithful men who are known to be able to teach others. But as Mr. Prime, and the two brethren in whose name he writes, seem to differ from this Synod only in the mode of making these necessary trials before ordination, the Synod, after a serious consideration of their request, which they are persuaded is made from a conscientious regard to what they think their duty, have agreed to lay no burden on them, or on those young men whose consciences will not allow them to preach the gospel without ordination, and therefore, though the Synod cannot repeal the act referred to in the above letter, respecting the ordaining ministers, *sine titulo*, as they judge it still expedient and useful, yet they allow the Presbytery to ordain those gentlemen referred to by Mr. Prime in his letter, in case they shall be found on trial, to be qualified for the work of the sacred ministry, not doubting but they will take due care on this important head."

Mr. Bay is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner are judged sufficient; his elder, Mr. Robert Henry, is also come.

Mr. Halsey's elder has leave to go home.

Upon inquiry how far the several Presbyteries had complied with the order of Synod respecting the plan of the lay elders, it was found that all the Presbyteries present have paid due attention thereto, and have made some considerable progress in executing said plan, except the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Suffolk, to whom it is earnestly recommended that they pay that regard to the above order of Synod which the importance of the case demands, as what may greatly conduce to the prosperity of the churches under their care.

Mr. Brainerd reports, that he has had under his care an Indian school since the 24th of December, which he expects to continue through the summer and possibly through the winter also.

Ordered, That the treasurer for the Synod pay Mr. Brainerd fifteen pounds for the half year which shall end the 24th of June. And Dr. Alison, Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Ewing, Sproat, Treat, and Beatty, are appointed a committee, who are to meet the last Wednesday of August, at ten o'clock, who shall visit the school and judge whether it shall be continued the winter half year; and if it appears to them that the school has been continued through the summer, that may draw upon the treasurer for fifteen pounds more; and then determine whether it is expedient to continue the school through the winter, and to engage with Mr. Brainerd in behalf of the Synod, to allow him fifteen pounds also for that term, in case it be continued.

It also appears to this Synod, that Mr. Brainerd has laboured very diligently in the numerous destitute vacancies to which he was appointed the last Synod. The treasurer is therefore ordered to pay Mr. Brainerd the twenty pounds voted him last year for the said service. And it is also agreed, to allow Mr. Brainerd

twenty pounds for the ensuing year, provided it shall appear at the next Synod, that he continues to preach the gospel in the numerous and destitute vacancies in his neighbourhood.

Adjourned to meet on Monday next, at ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, ten o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. James Lang is now come, and his reasons for not attending sooner, judged sufficient; and his elder, John McClelland, is also come.

Mr. Brainerd requested that some members of this body should be appointed to inspect the journal of his last year's labours, in the destitute places in his neighbourhood, and to report the state of his accounts with respect to that service, and Messrs. Hunter and Spencer are ordered a committee for that purpose.

Dr. Witherspoon and Dr. Rodgers are appointed to draw up a letter in answer to the letter which the Synod received from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Mr. Robert Smith and Halsey are appointed to draw up a letter in answer to the letter from North Holland.

Dr. Alison and Mr. Blair are appointed to draw up an answer to the letter from Geneva. And it is ordered, that these letters be laid before the Synod next Wednesday morning.

The committee appointed last year to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college, for the education of poor and pious youth, report, that they have disposed of the sum of thirty-two pounds, and that there will be in the hands of the treasurer next October, the sum of sixty-five pounds.

And the Synod appoint for a committee for the present year, to attend at New Jersey college the third Wednesday of August next, and dispose of said sum, or as much as may be deemed necessary, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Tennent, Guild, Ewing, Spencer, Beatty, Caldwell, Halsey, Reed, and Hunter, any three of whom shall be a quorum.

The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at Elizabethtown in October last, brought in the minutes of their proceedings, which were read.

As the next general convention are to meet at Norwalk the first Wednesday of September next, at eleven o'clock, the Synod appoint as delegates to attend upon that occasion, the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Jeremiah Halsey, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Dr. Francis Alison, Dr. John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, J. Treat, Joseph Montgomery, John Blair, John Close, Jedidiah Chapman, John Woodhull, Dr. John Witherspoon, Charles Beatty, Solomon Mead, and Samuel Mills.

And the Rev. Mr. John Blair, or in his absence, the Rev. Joseph Montgomery, is appointed to open the convention by a sermon.

The committee appointed to confer with the Associate Presbytery, brought in the minutes of their proceedings, which were read, and the conduct of the committee was highly approved.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Boyd is now returned to the Synod.

Inquiry was made with respect to the diligence of the several Presbyteries

in forwarding the subscriptions for the New Jersey College, and it appears that the Presbyteries have exerted themselves with considerable success, and still expect to be able to obtain further contributions.

It is ordered, that the several Presbyteries continue to exert themselves for this purpose, and be prepared to lay before the Synod, at our meeting next year, an exact account in writing of all the contributions and subscriptions they shall be able to obtain, and particularly specify what hath been collected, and what still remains yet to be collected; and it is ordered that the clerks of every Presbytery furnish themselves with a copy of this minute.

Mr. McDowell and Mr. Treat are appointed a committee to inquire into and report the management of the money formerly belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The appointment of supplies to the southward, agreeably to a previous order of Synod, came to be considered.

A supplication from Steel Creek, in North Carolina, for supplies, particularly for Mr. J. Lewis, was brought in by the committee of overtures, and read.

A supplication for supplies from Cathy's Settlement, North Carolina, was brought in and read. Also, a supplication for supplies from Cubb Creek, Virginia, was brought in and read.

A supplication from Manahawkin, in East Jersey, was likewise brought in and read.

A call from the united congregations of Briar Creek and Queensborough, in Georgia, for the Rev. Mr. Josiah Lewis, was brought in and read. In this it was also requested, that in case the call was not accepted, other supplies should be appointed them.

Application was also made on behalf of Ligonier, and the vacancies beyond the Allegheny mountains, on behalf of the settlements on the south branch of Potomac, and on behalf of a numerous people living on Hudson's river, in the province of New York, and also on behalf of Hanover and Cumberland counties, in Virginia. Application was also made on behalf of two united congregations in Dorset county, Maryland.

In consequence of these applications, Mr. James Finley is appointed to supply over the Allegheny mountains for two months at least, as soon as may be convenient for him.

Mr. Sampson Smith is appointed to spend six months in the settlements on the south branch of Potomac and the other parts on the frontiers of Virginia.

Mr. Schank, a candidate under the care of the New Brunswick Presbytery, is appointed to spend four months in the settlements on Hudson's river, and parts adjacent, and the Presbytery are directed to ordain him as soon as may be, if they find their way clear, in order to his going on that mission.

Mr. Alexander Miller and Mr. Eliphalet Ball are also appointed to visit those settlements, and to continue there six weeks or two months each, if convenient.

Mr. Elam Potter, agreeably to his request, is appointed to visit the southern vacancies of North and South Carolina and Georgia, and to spend at least six months in this mission, and to tarry in every congregation of importance which he shall visit, three weeks or a month, and carefully catechize the people.

Ordered, that Mr. Roe give notice of this appointment to Mr. Potter.

Mr. Joseph Smith is appointed to visit the southern vacancies, and particularly to spend five weeks at Steel Creek congregation, and two months and three weeks beyond the Catawba river; that he pay particular attention to Dunkin's Creek congregation, and spend as much time there, and at Bullock's Creek, as he possibly can. The rest of the time at discretion, and he shall carefully catechize the people of these congregations.

Mr. John McCreary is appointed to visit the settlements betwixt the Yadkin and Catawba rivers, and to continue among them three months, and to spend three or four Sabbaths at Cubb Creek, in his way.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery are appointed to supply Mr. McCreary's pulpit the three first Sabbaths in August and the two first in November.

Mr. Simonton is appointed to supply Mr. Smith's pulpit the two first Sabbaths in October, and Mr. Tate the two first Sabbaths in November.

The further consideration of supplies deferred.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod proceeded, according to an order of a former day, to consider the case of Mr. Eakin, referred to them by the second Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Mr. Eakin appeared agreeably to the citation issued; and being interrogated from the chair, made an open and free confession of the crimes with which he was charged, and declared himself unfeignedly sorry and deeply penitent for his very offensive conduct.

The Synod, after reasoning, and prayer to God for direction in this important matter, are of opinion, that the crimes he had been guilty of did fully deserve deposition; but in respect to his humble and penitent carriage, do agree, that he be suspended from the exercise of his ministry *sine die;* and they do prohibit him, under pain of the highest censures of the church, from exercising the same, or any part thereof, within the bounds of this Synod, or anywhere else, and discharge any inferior judicatory from taking off this suspension, and from receiving any application for that purpose; and the Synod do also dissolve his pastoral relation to the third Presbyterian congregation in this city. They do further suspend him from sealing ordinances in the mean time, but leave it to the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, or any other Presbytery in which he may reside, to restore to Christian communion, upon his application, when they shall see proper. The Synod do also appoint the moderator solemnly to rebuke him from the chair, and order that this whole sentence be read from the pulpit of that church of which he was pastor, the next Lord's day.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, A. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee to examine Mr. Brainerd's accounts from the year 1760 to the year 1770 inclusive, reported, that Mr. Brainerd had received from the several congregations he hath from time to time supplied in the neighbourhood of Nanohawkin and Egg Harbour, only the sum of fifty-nine pounds nineteen shillings, though he had preached upwards of five hundred times among them, and that his accounts respecting the Indian school stand fair.

The committee appointed to draw up a letter in answer to a letter received from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, brought it in and it was read.

The committee appointed to draw up a letter in answer to a letter from the Synod of North Holland, brought one in, which was read.

And Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Robert Smith, Ewing, Patrick Alison, Blair, and McDowell, are appointed a committee to review and correct the forementioned letters, and bring them in to-morrow morning.

The committee to inquire into the management of the money formerly belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia, are not prepared to make their report.

The case respecting marriage was taken under consideration, and after deliberating upon it some time, it was deferred till next Synod.

Mr. Ewing is appointed to furnish the southern missionaries with proper certificates, and to sign them in the name of the Synod.

The affair of appointing supplies was resumed.

Mr. Horton is appointed to supply Mr. Boyd's pulpit the third and fourth Sabbaths of September, while Mr. Boyd, agreeable to the order of Synod, supplies for Mr. McCreary.

The New York Presbytery book was brought in by the committee appointed to examine it, and it was approved.

Mr. Caldwell requested in the name of the Presbytery of New York, that some of the money in the hands of the Synod's treasurer to assist poor and destitute congregations, be allowed them for supplying the frontiers of that province and New Jersey, and the Synod agreed, that there be allowed them for the ensuing year, the sum of fifteen pounds, and at the request of Mr. Cooper, the like sum is allowed to the Presbytery of Donegall for supplying on their frontiers.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine into and report the management of the money formerly in the hands of the Synod of Philadelphia, have not yet been able to complete that business.

The committee appointed to examine the Donegall Presbytery book, brought it in, and with remarks it was approved.

The committee appointed to examine the New Brunswick Presbytery book, brought it in and it was approved.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery book was brought in by the committee appointed to examine it, and it was approved.

Ordered, To proceed in reading the minutes of the committee of overtures.

Application was made by Mr. Alexander Miller in favour of the Presbyterian congregation in Schenectady, in order to assist them in finishing a church, which was not complied with.

A scheme for the education of poor and pious youth, formed and adopted by the Presbytery of New Castle, and transmitted by the committee of overtures, was brought in and read, and is as follows:

"A scheme for supporting young men of piety and parts at learning for the work of the ministry, that so our numerous vacancies may be supplied with preachers of the gospel, &c.

"1st. That every vacant congregation in our bounds, who ask this Presbytery for supplies, do annually at our fall meeting pay into the hands of a treasurer to be chosen, the sum of two pounds.

"2d. That every minister belonging to this Presbytery, pay into the hands of said treasurer, at the said time, the sum of one pound.

"3d. That any gentleman willing to contribute to this pious design, may have an opportunity of subscribing to pay annually.

"4th. That at every spring meeting of this Presbytery, there shall be a treasurer chosen, (a member of Presbytery,) who shall keep a fair stated account of all the money received, and the disbursements, and shall pay no money without a written order, an act of the Presbytery signed by their moderator and clerk for the time being.

"5th. That every member of this Presbytery may recommend any young man they think proper, who, after such an examination as shall be thought convenient, shall receive or be refused the benefit of this donation, by the major vote of this Presbytery.

"6th. That after any young man is thus received, the Presbytery shall look upon themselves as the guardians of his education, and as such shall give all orders relative thereto, and in case of any difference of opinion the major vote shall always determine.

"7th. That every young man thus educated, shall be looked upon as natively belonging to this Presbytery, and when introduced into the work of the ministry, shall continue at least one year preaching in the vacancies within the bounds of this Presbytery.

"8th. That every young man thus educated, and afterwards not inclining to the work of the ministry, shall give a bond to some minister of this Presbytery, to the amount of all the money expended by this Presbytery in his education, payable in five years after date."

The Synod do highly approve of this plan, and do most earnestly recommend it to the several Presbyteries to fall upon that or the like scheme, for the excellent purpose above mentioned, and order that inquiry be made at the next meeting of Synod, how far the several Presbyteries have been able to proceed in executing said plan, and that they be required to give an account of their diligence in this matter.

An overture was made that the general fast be observed in all our bounds in consideration of the aspect which matters, both civil and religious, bear. The overture was cheerfully accepted, and the Synod earnestly recommend it to the several ministers and congregations under their care, to spend the third Thursday in June in fasting and prayer: excepting those Presbyteries who may have lately observed a fast for the same purpose.

An application from the trustees of the Academy at Newark, to obtain the countenance and approbation of the Synod for a general collection through their bounds in behalf of said Academy, was overtured and read. The Synod considered the prayer of said petition, and cheerfully agree to countenance it; and do recommend it to the charity of the various congregations within their bounds.

The letter in answer to a letter from Geneva not being ready to be delivered in with the other letters on Tuesday morning, was now brought in by the committee appointed to prepare it, and read, and ordered to be put into the hands of the committee appointed to revise and correct the other Synodical letters.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine into and report the management of the money formerly in the hands of the late Philadelphia Synod, and, in consequence of the union, belonging to the united Synod, report, that on account of the multiplicity of business in which Dr. Alison is involved nothing can be done in this affair this session. It is therefore ordered, that Mr. Treat, Mr. Beatty, and Mr. Sproat, be a committee to examine into and report the state of said money, and that they prepare an exact account in writing of the

management of said money, and lay it before the Synod at its meeting next year.

The committee appointed to examine the books of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia and of the Presbytery of New Castle, brought them in, and they were approved.

A proposal being made for reviving the annual collection, in order to assist weak and destitute places in supporting the gospel, as was agreed upon in a former Synod, the Synod considering that a sum of money yet remains in the hand of their treasurer, and that there are, or will be, several collections for other purposes on foot in the current year, agree to defer it till the next meeting of Synod.

Adjourned till three o'clock this afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of appointing supplies was resumed.

Mr. Halsey is appointed to supply Mr. Jos. Smith's pulpit, the first, second, and third Sabbaths of January, and it is ordered that the New York Presbytery supply his pulpit two of those Sabbaths.

Mr. Thomas Lewis is appointed to supply Mr. Jos. Smith's pulpit the three first Sabbaths of December, and the New York Presbytery is ordered to supply his pulpit two of those Sabbaths.

Mr. Mitchell is appointed to supply Mr. Smith's pulpit the two first Sabbaths of February.

Mr. Chapman is appointed to supply Mr. Smith's pulpit the third and fourth Sabbaths of November.

The letters to the foreign churches were brought in by the committee appointed to revise them, and approved; and it was ordered, that the moderator sign them, and that Dr. Witherspoon take care to transmit the letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Dr. Rodgers to transmit that to the Church of North Holland, and Dr. Alison the letter to the Church of Geneva.

The committee appointed to meet the corporation laid their minutes before the Synod, who highly approve of their proceedings in the business committed to their care, commend the settlement made respecting the money deposited in the hands of the corporation by the church of Scotland, to be disposed of by said corporation, in conjunction with the Synod's committee, in the disposal of which they are concerned, and vote them their thanks for their fidelity and diligence.

A copy of some regulations made by the corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, their widows and children.

"A committee was appointed to consider and propose some regulations for the admission of ministers who may come from Europe or from the neighbouring colonies and join our Synod, and who may desire to become contributors to this fund. The members of the committee last appointed, and the other members of this board, having at this time freely and deliberately considered this matter, have thus determined:

"That if any minister come from a distant place and join with the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and settle in any of the middle colonies, viz. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and choose to become a contributor to this fund, he may be admitted on the following terms, viz.

"1st. He shall be allowed one whole year after his arrival among us, and no longer, to deliberate whether he will become a contributor or not.

"2d. If he was ordained a minister before the fund was constituted, and be

under forty years of age, he shall pay a sum of money equal to the sum paid by any minister who has chosen the same rate with him, and has been a contributor from the beginning, counting the interest thereon as it would have arisen from year to year.

"3d. If he was ordained since the commencement of the fund, and under thirty years of age when ordained, he shall pay on his becoming a contributor a sum of money equal to what would have been paid by him had he been introduced into the ministry by the Synod; but if he was ordained when above thirty and under forty years of age, he shall pay a sum equal to what would have been paid by him had he been ordained at the age of thirty years. Provided always, and on all these suppositions, that he be not in such a declining state of health as would render his life more precarious than might be expected from a man of his years; of which this corporation shall be the judges.

"4th. But if he be above forty years of age, he shall not be admitted on any terms, as the corporation cannot in consistence with their trust allow him this privilege.

"It was found on revising our records that several laws have been enacted respecting the time when young men were to become contributors to this fund, which, when compared, occasioned some difficulties. To remove which for the time to come, it is agreed and enacted, that every young man that shall hereafter apply to be admitted as a contributor, shall bring a certificate from a Presbytery, mentioning the time of his ordination, and of his settlement in a congregation, and shall at the next yearly meeting of this corporation but one in the month of May, after his ordination and settlement in a congregation, pay down one year's rate or contribution, and then entering into bonds shall be admitted to all the privileges arising from this fund. But it shall be lawful for him to pay his money, and become a contributor sooner if he thinks it for his advantage, as his family can expect no benefit unless he has paid one year's rate, and entered into bonds.

"The secretary is ordered to give a copy of this regulation to the moderator of the Synod, respecting the admission of young men as contributors to this fund, and to request the Synod, in the name of this corporation, to take such measures as they may think most proper, that every minister belonging to any of their Presbyteries may know these rules, and that no young man be deprived of the benefit of this fund who is willing to become a contributor.

"Enacted at a meeting of the corporation, held at the first Presbyterian church in this city, December 19th, 1770, and continued by adjournments.

"A true copy, FRANCIS ALISON, Secretary."

Mr. William Mackey Tennent, a licensed candidate under the care of the Lewestown Presbytery, is appointed to supply the month of November at the direction of the New Castle Presbytery, and Mr. John Simpson, a licensed candidate belonging to the New Brunswick Presbytery, is appointed to supply in the month of December, at the direction of said Presbytery.

The Synod appoint the Rev. P. Alison to supply in Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, to set off as soon as he conveniently can.

The settlement of the committee of Synod with the corporation of the Widows' Fund, is as follows:

"The corporation having laid their accounts respecting the money granted them by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland before the committee of the Synod, the committee finding it difficult to understand the propriety of allowing some articles in said accounts, and having conferred with the committee of the corporation, who, on the strictest examination, exhibited this account, they still declared that they were in some things not fully satisfied; therefore to end all debates, and for the sake of peace, the corporation agreed to make them the following proposals, though they are persuaded that the ac-

counts exhibited to them are just and reasonable, and such as they can on a just and sure foundation exhibit to the world.

"1st. That thirty pounds free of all deductions shall be yearly paid by the treasurer of the corporation to a committee of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, on the 24th day of May; the first payment to commence on the 24th of May, 1772, to be applied by them, for the uses and purposes hereafter mentioned, and for none else; these uses, as we apprehend, being agreeable to the pious intentions of the donors.

"2d. That in consideration of the application of said sum of thirty pounds, the committee of the Synod, in the name of that reverend body, do acquiesce in and approve of such application of the money, entrusted by the Scotch Church for the use of the widows' fund, and all such other pious uses as have been hitherto made of it by the corporation.

"3d. That this sum of thirty pounds shall be expended by the committee of the Synod in assisting poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, or their families; or to pay ministers or probationers to preach the gospel to weak or frontier congregations in the bounds of Pennsylvania and the lower counties, New Jersey, and Maryland, and to assist them when weak and distressed, to erect places of worship, and to preach to and assist the Indians who live among said inhabitants or contiguous to the frontiers of said provinces.

"4th. The committee hereby covenant, agree, and engage to and with the corporation, that they shall never claim a right or power to break on the capital whence the said thirty pounds are to arise by way of interest, nor shall the committee of the Synod employ it for any other uses than those above specified, upon the pain of having it withheld or employed by the corporation in conjunction with the committee; but if it be found necessary in the judgment of this corporation to employ the whole capital, which is considered by this board as equal to six hundred pounds, or any part thereof in the support of the widows' fund, it is hereby agreed to use it for that purpose; and if a part of it be so employed, the committee of the Synod shall have the disposal of the interest of the sum remaining at five per cent., clear of all deductions. The committee and corporation are by this agreement bound, never to touch said capital of six hundred pounds, but only and in such case, as the annuities due from the corporation cannot be paid without breaking on the capital as is stipulated in the thirteenth article of the agreement made between the contributors and this corporation. And it is hereby stipulated that this agreement shall prevent and put an end to all debates between this corporation and the committee of the Synod, respecting the money entrusted to our care by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"Signed in behalf of the corporation by their president, secretary, and treasurer, viz: JOHN EWING, FRANCIS ALISON, WILLIAM HUMPHREYS."

Adjourned till the third Wednesday in May next, to meet at ten o'clock in the second Presbyterian church in Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

1772.

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1772.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. John Roan, John Strain, James Hunt, Robert Cooper.

From the Presbytery of Lewestown: The Rev. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Alexander Huston.

From New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Smith, William McKennan, Joseph Montgomery, Joseph Smith, James Finley, William Foster, Josiah Lewis.

From the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Andrew Hunter, James Boyd, Enoch Green, James Watt.

From the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Alison, John Ewing, John Simonton.

From the New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. William Tennent, Elihu Spencer, John Rosborough.

From the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Azariah Horton, Timothy Jones, Jonathan Elmer, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, Azel Roe.

From the Suffolk Presbytery: The Rev. William Mills.

From the Dutchess county Presbytery: The Rev. Chauncey Graham.

Elders: Messrs. James Pearse, George Craighead, John Bayard, John Wilson, William Sterrett, Joseph Wilday, John Johnston, Robert Ogden, Aaron Mattison, Ralph Hunt.

Ministers absent: Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Samuel Thompson, John Hogg, Amos Thompson, John Slemmons, James Long, John King, Hugh Vance, George Duffield, John Craighead.

Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Jacob Kerr.

New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. John Clark, Alexander McDowell, John Carmichael, Sampson Smith, John McCreary, James Latta, John Woodhull.

First Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Nehemiah Greenman, Benjamin Chesnutt, Charles Beatty, Alexander Mitchell.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. John Elder, Joseph Tate, John Steel, Patrick Alison, Robert McMordie.

New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, Charles McKnight, Thomas Smith, John Guild, James Lyon, Job Prudden, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McClean, Israel Reed, John Hannah.

New York Presbytery: The Rev. Simon Horton, Dr. Rodgers, Jacob Green, John Moffatt, Aaron Richards, John Darby, Hugh Knox, Benjamin Hait, Benjamin Woodruff, Thomas Lewis, Nathan Kerr, Abner Brush, Francis Peppard, William Woodhull, Jedidiah Chapman, Samuel Sacket, Alexander Miller, Oliver Deeming, Jonathan Murdock.

Suffolk county Presbytery: The Rev. Ebenezer Prime, Sylvanus White, James Brown, Samuel Buel, Benjamin Talmage, Benjamin Goldsmith, John Close, Elam Potter, Sampson Occum, Joshua Hart.

Dutchess county Presbytery: The Rev. Elisha Kent, Samuel Dunlap, Benjamin Strong, Solomon Mead, Eliphalet Ball, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills.

The whole Presbytery of Hanover.

And the whole Presbytery of Orange in North Carolina.

The Synod was opened by a sermon from Luke xvii. 26, by the Rev. Mr. McWhorter, the last year's moderator being dead.

Mr. Joseph Treat was chosen moderator, and Messrs. Spencer and Caldwell clerks.

The reasons given by Messrs Jones, Joseph Treat, Elmore, Rosborough, Enoch Green, Watt, Finley, Wilson, Houston, Hunt, Mills, and Graham, for their absence last year, were sustained.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. William Ramsey hath been removed by death, November 5th, 1771.

The New Castle Presbytery report, that they have ordained since last Synod,

Messrs. Thomas Read, James Wilson, James Anderson, who being present took their seats; and that they have deposed Mr. John Beard.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. William Schank, and Mr. Jacob Vanarsdalen, since the last Synod, who, being present, took their seats; also, that they have received the Rev. Mr. Alexander McClean, recommended to them from Scotland.

Donegal Presbytery report, that they have ordained since last Synod, Mr. Hugh Vance, and licensed Mr. William Tom.

New York Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. John Blair hath been removed by death, December 8th, 1771; and that they have ordained Mr. Amzi Lewis since the last Synod.

Suffolk Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. Nehemiah Barker was removed by death, March the 10th, 1772; and that they have ordained Mr. Joshua Hart, and licensed Mr. John Blydenburgh since last Synod.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery report, that they have licensed to preach as a candidate, Mr. John McClean.

Dutchess County report, they have licensed Mr. David Close to preach as a candidate; and that the Rev. Mr. John Smith was removed by death, more than a year ago; and have received the Rev. Mr. Benjamin Strong, from the Western Association of Fairfield county.

The Rev. Messrs. Israel Read, John Elder, Joseph Tate, and John Craighead, are now come, and gave sufficient reasons for not coming sooner. Also, Mr. Thomas Walter, Mr. Simonton's elder, Mr. Robert Finney, Mr. James Wilson's elder, and Mr. Philip Tanner, Mr. Finley's elder, are now come.

Messrs. John Roan, Huston, Foster, Sproat, Tate, Vanarsdalen, Elmer, Mills, and Graham, ministers, Messrs. Philip Tanner, Mattison, George Craighead, and Finney, elders, are appointed the committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and as often afterwards, by adjournment, as may be necessary.

Messrs. Matthew Wilson and Montgomery are appointed a committee to examine the Presbytery book of Donegal.

Messrs. Ewing and Sproat to examine the book of the Lewestown Presbytery.

Messrs. McWhorter and Robert Smith to examine the book of the first Philadelphia Presbytery.

Messrs. Strain and Roe to examine the book of the second Philadelphia Presbytery.

The books of the other Presbyteries are not brought to Synod.

The Synod appoint as their commission for the ensuing year the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, James Sproat, Dr. Alison, John Ewing, Elihu Spencer, William Tennent, Dr. Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, William Mills, John Close, Solomon Mead, Ichabod Lewis, Robert Smith, Joseph Montgomery, Matthew Wilson, John Miller, George Duffield, John Roan, with the moderator, and Robert Ogden, John Bayard, John Johnson, Aaron Mattison, elders, thirteen of whom to be a quorum; but if the moderator should die, or be absent, the first in order in the minute shall have power to call the commission and preside.

The Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Suffolk report, they have complied with the order of last Synod by endeavouring to execute the plan of the lay elders, &c.

The committee appointed to dispose of money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, for the education of pious youth, report, that they met and disposed of all the money due October last, except thirteen pounds.

Messrs. James Finley, Sampson Smith, Schank, Elam Potter, John Mc-

Creary, fulfilled their appointments for supplies. Mr. Joseph Smith was sick, and could not fulfil his.

Inquiry was made how far the several Presbyteries executed the plan recommended to them last year for raising money to educate pious youth for the ministry; and it appeared some Presbyteries had complied with the recommendation, and others had not. It is again earnestly recommended to the several Presbyteries to take the most convenient and expeditious methods to raise money for the purposes aforesaid, and be ready to render an account to the next Synod what they have done.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, nine o'clock A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(With the Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, Patrick Alison, Jeremiah Halsey, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, John Woodhull: and John Boyd, William Clingan, William Patterson, James Lindsay, David Watson, elders.)

The Presbytery book of New Brunswick is brought in, Messrs. Jones and Elmer are appointed to examine it.

Messrs. Duffield, Thomas Smith, and Hannah, their reasons for absence the two last years sustained.

Mr. Halsey is now come, and his reason for not coming sooner is sustained.

The Synod appoint as a committee for the present year to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College, for the education of pious youth, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, John Guild, Ewing, Elihu Spencer, James Caldwell, Jeremiah Halsey, and Israel Reed, to attend at New Jersey College the third Wednesday of August next.

The Synod taking into their serious consideration the low state of vital and practical religion, the great prevalence of vice and infidelity in this land in general, and the manifold dispensations of Divine Providence which appear at this time, loudly to call for her deep repentance and humiliation before God, do recommend it in the most earnest manner to every Presbytery under their care, to observe the first Thursday in August next, as a day of public fasting and prayer, excepting such Presbyteries, or congregations, as may find an inconvenience in observing that day, in which case it is recommended that they appoint another day for the same purpose, as they judge convenient, hoping that a gracious God may hear the united supplications of his people, and return again to visit this land with his fatherly blessings.

And the Synod for the future recommend to their several Presbyteries to agree upon days to be observed annually through their bounds, for public thanksgiving, or fasting and prayer, as the dispensations of Divine Providence may require.

The minutes of the last General Convention were laid before the Synod, which were read; and as the next General Convention is to meet at Elizabethtown the fourth Wednesday in September next, the Synod appoint as delegates to attend upon that occasion, the Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, James Hunt, John Miller, Joseph Montgomery, William Foster, John Carmichael, Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Dr. Francis Alison, John Ewing, Dr. John Witherspoon, William Tennent, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Dr. John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, William Mills, John Close, Samuel Mills, Ichabod Lewis.

The Synod entered upon the consideration of the business and powers of the

commission of Synod, and after considerable discourse upon the subject, they appointed Messrs. Ewing and Montgomery to draw up an overture, and lay it before the Synod on Saturday morning.

Messrs. John Steel, Robert McMordie, and Benjamin Chesnutt, are now come, and their reasons for not coming sooner are sustained.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The case referred to this Synod by the last, respecting marriage, came to be considered, and after some time spent in the affair, it was deferred till to-morrow morning, and Messrs. McWhorter, Strain, Matthew Wilson, and George Duffield, are appointed a committee to prepare a minute on the case, and bring it in to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With the Rev. Messrs. Benjamin Woodruff, John Close, Hugh Vance, and John Slemmons, who gave sufficient reasons for not coming sooner; also Mr. Thomas Woodruff, an elder.)

The committee appointed yesterday upon the case respecting marriage, brought in a minute, which after being corrected was approved, and is as follows:

"After mature deliberation, the Synod declare their great dissatisfaction with all such marriages as are inconsistent with the Levitical law, which in cases matrimonial we understand is the law of our nation, and that persons intermarrying in these prohibited degrees, are not only punishable by the laws of the country, but ought to suffer the censures of the church; and further judge, though the present case is not a direct violation of the express words of the Levitical law, yet as it is contrary to the custom of protestant nations in general, and an evidence of great untenderness, and so opposite to such precepts of the gospel, as require Christians to avoid things of ill report and all appearance of evil, and what is offensive to the church, that the persons referred to in this instance ought to be rebuked by the church session, and others warned against such offensive conduct, and in case these persons submit to such rebuke and are in other respects regular professors, that they be not debarred of Christian privileges."

And Mr. Hunter is ordered to read this minute publicly in his congregation, where the persons live referred to in the above case.

The Synod order every Presbytery to procure copies of the regulations and terms of admission into the widows' fund, entered upon our minutes last year, and to enter them upon their Presbytery books, and read them to every new member which shall be admitted into the Presbytery.

The Synod appoint for their committee to dispose of money in the hands of the corporation for the widows' fund, Messrs. Spencer, McWhorter, Montgomery, Sproat, and Caldwell, to meet when and at such times as they may judge convenient.

Mr. Brainerd's Indian school appears to have been successfully continued since our last Synod, six months, for which it is agreed to allow him fifteen pounds. And we further desire him to continue the school this year at the expense of the Synod, and we appoint Messrs. Spencer, Hunter, and Green, to visit the school twice before next Synod, or oftener if convenient.

It appeared also to the Synod, that Mr. Brainerd had very fully complied with the order of last Synod in supplying the numerous vacancies in his neighbourhood, therefore the treasurer, agreeably to the order of last year, is directed to pay him twenty pounds. Ordered also, that Mr. Brainerd receive for the ensuing year the sum of eighteen pounds, being the interest of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey for the support of an Indian mission.

The Synod finding the money collected some years ago for defraying the expense attending the missions appointed on our frontiers, is nearly expended, agree to have a collection this year through their bounds upon the same plan with the former. And as it is judged it might be useful to extend this public charity to purchase such religious books as the Synod may approve of, to be given to poor congregations; the following members are appointed to consider this matter, and bring in an overture to be subjected to the Synod as soon as they conveniently can, viz: Messrs. McWhorter, Montgomery, and Ogden.

Mr. George Brown, Mr. Duffield's elder, is now come.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries be ready on Monday morning to render an account of subscriptions obtained for New Jersey college, agreeably to the order of last year.

The minutes were called for from the committee of overtures.

A petition was presented from Mr. Samuel Eakin, praying to have the suspension from the exercise of his ministry, which was laid upon him by the last Synod, taken off. The consideration of the petition is deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Alexander McDowell.)

The consideration of Mr. Eakin's petition was resumed, and after much deliberation upon it, and every member being required to speak in the order of the roll, the final discussion of it was deferred till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Ewing and Montgomery, agreeably to order, brought in an overture to state the business and powers of the commission of Synod, which was considered, and upon a vote was rejected.

The consideration of Mr. Eakin's petition resumed; and after mature deliberation, it was voted and carried by a large majority, that he should be restored to the work of the ministry for one year, under the particular care of the New Castle Presbytery; and Mr. McDowell is appointed to give him a solemn exhortation with respect to his future conduct.

Mr. Eakin was called in, and having received the exhortation, takes his seat as a member of Synod.

The treasurer for the Synod laid his accounts before us, which were approved, and there appeared to be a balance in his hands of forty-one pounds, thirteen shillings and eleven pence half penny, and he is ordered to print two hundred copies of said account.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Craighead, Matthew Wilson, Joseph Smith, Anderson, Latta, Richard Treat, Boyd, Spencer, Woodruff, and Mills, with the moderator, who had leave of absence, and Mr. McWhorter was desired to take the chair.)

A petition came in by the committee of overtures from Mr. John Beard, praying a relief from the judgment of the New Castle Presbytery, whereby he was deposed from the exercise of the gospel ministry, in which he desires the Synod would consider the matter, though he cannot be present. Mr. Beard's petition and other papers which he desired to be communicated were read, also the minutes of the Presbytery, respecting his trial; and after hearing the Presbytery, and duly considering the petition, we do unanimously approve of the judgment of the Presbytery.

A reference from the Presbytery of New Castle inquiring whether marrying by license be lawful, was brought in and read, which was dismissed.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With the Rev. Jacob Kerr, who is now come and gave reasons, which were sustained, for not coming sooner, and for his absence for several years past.)

The committee appointed last Friday to draw up an overture with respect to the general collection and the distribution of books, brought one in, which after correction is as follows:

"1. That the Synod recommend a general collection in all the churches under their care.

"2. That the Synod write a pastoral letter, in which they shall return thanks to their several congregations for their former generosity, and solicit their future favours.

"3. That the Synod particularly desire the charity of the public for those purposes, viz: For defraying the expenses of sending missionaries to the frontiers, and such other places as are unable to support the gospel; for purchasing useful books to distribute in said places under the direction of committees to be appointed for that purpose; for propagating Christian knowledge among the Indians; and for such other pious uses as may occur from time to time."

The following books were proposed and agreed to be procured and distributed, viz: Bibles, Westminster Confessions of Faith, small edition of Vincent's Catechism, Doddridge's Rise and Progress of Religion, A Compassionate Address to the Christian World, Allein's Alarm to the Unconverted, Dr. Watts's Divine Songs for Children, and the Assembly's Catechism.

And for the purpose of procuring and distributing those books we appoint for a committee at Philadelphia, Dr. Alison, Mr. Sproat, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Bayard, and Mr. Jonathan Smith; and at New York, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Treat, Mr. McWhorter, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. V. B. Livingston, and Mr. Robert Ogden. And the committees are restricted not to lay out this year above ten pounds pro. currency each for the purposes aforesaid. But if any well disposed persons will send the committees books or pamphlets which they judge will answer the intention of the Synod to promote Christian knowledge, they are desired to distribute these also.

The committee then laid before us the draught of a pastoral letter, which, as corrected, was approved, and is as follows:

"Dearly Beloved—We take this method in our public capacity as convened in the general Synod, to return you our thanks for the readiness with which you concurred in our application to you in the year 1766, for the pious purposes then mentioned, and we trust the accounts we have from time to time transmitted to you of the manner in which your contributions were laid out, and the salutary effects which arose from the distribution of them, have not failed of giving you due satisfaction. These contributions being nearly expended, we again solicit your charity, not only for the important purposes before mentioned, but for the further design of purchasing and distributing religious books in such places, and among such people, as are destitute of the ordinary means of instruction by the regular preaching of the gospel. We apprehend little need be said to recommend this last object to your countenance. The success which hath attended schemes of the same kind for spreading Christian knowledge in other parts of the world, and the very peculiar state of some parts of our country and the poor people under our care, render this undertaking at the present juncture both promising and necessary.

"We think it our duty, at the same time, to call upon you to bewail the declension of vital religion; and while we remind you of your many civil and religious privileges—of the blessings of peace and ample security in the possession of all the sacred rights of conscience, together with the faithful ministry of the gospel, which you have long enjoyed, we earnestly pray that you would not provoke God to deprive you of them, but to take warning by the judgments which he inflicted upon his unfruitful churches of Asia, Africa, and Rome, lest he remove your candlesticks out of their places. We therefore recommend to you frequent and fervent addresses to the throne of Almighty God for the Holy Spirit to be sent down upon his churches. This alone will lead you in the way of truth and life, and render our labours for your comfort and edification effectual.

"We recommend likewise a steadfast regard to the pure and simple doctrines of the gospel, which have been the powerful means in all ages of enlightening and reforming the world. And therefore we earnestly beseech you not to be carried away by any opinions, however specious, which are not founded upon the Scriptures, but in all things which relate to doctrine and practice to be strictly guided by those sacred oracles of truth.

"We recommend further, that you would cultivate that spirit of love and Christian union among one another which is so frequently enjoined by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it may appear to the world that you are not only one body, but of one mind. We exhort you in a particular manner to diligence and faithfulness in instructing your children and servants in the doctrine of the Holy Scriptures, an excellent summary of which is contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith, larger and lesser catechisms.

"In the last place, we recommend to you a punctual attendance upon all the public ordinances of religion, and earnestly request that you would strive to promote that regard for the Sabbath—that reverence for the holy name of God—that temperance, sobriety, chastity, charity, humility, decency, and universal benevolence and love, which are so essential to Christianity, and so strongly inculcated in every part of the word of God. Finally, brethren, pray for us, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Mr. Montgomery is desired to have three hundred copies of this letter printed and given to the several Presbyteries before the Synod breaks up.

Mrs. Jane Tennent brought in an appeal from the judgment of the first Philadelphia Presbytery, which was read, and after hearing her and the Presbytery, the Synod confirm the judgment of the Presbytery. And further judge, that however deficient the certificate was which was given to the said Mrs. Tennent

by the session of the second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, yet if she produces sufficient certificates from the other places where she has resided since her marriage with the Rev. Mr. Charles Tennent, at which time she removed from the church in Philadelphia, that then she may be received into communion with the church where she resides.

Adjourned till three clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

With the members who had leave of absence on Saturday last, who are now returned, and Mr. Treat again took the chair.

Mr. Robert Finney and William Clingan have leave of absence.

An appeal was brought in by the third Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, from a judgment of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, which, with the judgment of the Presbytery, was read, and after the Presbytery was heard in part,

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in hearing the appeal entered upon yesterday.

The Presbytery proceeded further in the defence of their judgment, and after both parties were fully heard, the Synod adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the appeal resumed; and after much deliberation upon the subject, it was voted, affirm or reverse the judgment of the Presbytery, and it was carried reverse, by a large majority.

Mr. McDowell, Mr. Matthew Wilson, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Latta, desired liberty to enter their dissent from the judgment, which was granted, and they are to bring in their reasons to-morrow morning. It was then voted, whether the third Presbyterian congregation of Philadelphia have liberty to prosecute their call for Mr. Duffield, before the Presbytery of Donegal, which was carried by a large majority that they have.

Mr. Chauncy Graham and Mr. Eakin have liberty to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

27th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

With the Rev. Mr. Charles McKnight, who gave sufficient reasons for not coming sooner.

An appeal was brought in by the congregation of St. George's and the Forest, from a judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle, August last, which affected said congregations. After the parties were fully heard, and withdrawn, and the Synod had maturely deliberated upon the affair, it was moved that a committee be appointed to draw up a minute to express the sense of the Synod relative to the whole matter. It was also moved that it be voted, reverse or affirm the judgment of the Presbytery. The previous question was then put, which of these should be the state of the vote, and the former was carried, and

accordingly Mr. Miller, Mr. McWhorter, and Mr. Bayard, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Petitions were presented for supplies; one in behalf of Long Canes, Rocky Creek, and places adjacent, in South Carolina; another from the inhabitants near Monongahela and Youghiogeny; another from the Forks of James River, Virginia, and one from the head of Christina Creek, for supplies in the absence of Mr. McCreary, who was sent to Carolina by the Synod, and by sickness is prevented returning.

Mr. George Craighead had leave to go home.

A call was put into the Synod from the Long Canes, for Mr. Joseph Smith, which was given to the Presbytery of New Castle, to present to him.

Mr. Elmer was proposed for the southern mission, and he chose to consider of it till to-morrow.

The Presbytery of Donegal are appointed to send either Mr. Craighead or Mr. King, to Monongahela, and places adjacent, to supply as long as they conveniently can.

Mr. Robert McMordie is appointed to Virginia, and the Carolinas, for six months.

The Presbytery of New Castle inform the Synod, it is probable they will have a candidate this summer, who they think may conveniently spend some time at Monongahela, and places adjacent, and the Forks of James' River. The Presbytery is ordered, if that should be the case, to send him to those places.

Mr. Sampson Smith is appointed to supply two months on the South Branch of Potomac.

The Presbytery of New Castle are directed to appoint the above candidate two months at the Forks of James' River.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery inform us, it is probable they will have two candidates whom they can send this summer to Virginia and the Carolinas. The Presbytery is ordered, accordingly, to send them as soon as they judge it expedient.

The Rev. Joshua Hart, of Suffolk Presbytery, is appointed to Virginia and the Carolinas, for six months, and as much longer as he can conveniently.

A remonstrance from the first Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, relating to the judgment of the Synod passed yesterday with respect to the appeal from the third Presbyterian Church, was brought in and read, and ordered a second reading to-morrow morning.

A petition was presented by Mr. Robert Taylor, signed by sundry members of Cedar Spring and Tuscarora congregations, praying that those congregations should be set off from under the care of Donegal Presbytery, and put under some other. And after due consideration, the prayer of the petition was denied, by a nearly unanimous vote.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Excepting Mr. Schank, who went home without asking liberty.)

Mr. Elmer informs the Synod he is still unable to determine with any certainty whether he can undertake the southern mission, but engages to go if

he can make it convenient, and he is accordingly appointed if that should be the case.

Messrs. McDowell, Matthew Wilson, and Latta, brought in the reasons of their dissent from the judgment, with respect to the third Presbyterian Church in this city, which are as follows:

"We enter our dissent from the two votes of the Synod, reversing the judgment of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and giving a liberty to the people, who call themselves the congregation of Pine-street, to prosecute a call in the Presbytery of Donegal, for these reasons following, among others:

"1. Because we apprehend that a vote forwarding a call to any minister of the gospel, without any concurrence of the eldership, and much more in opposition to their solemn caution, a call that was voted when not half the people of Pine-street were present, the session, and others, in the mean time objecting against it, is indeed among us a new mode of proceeding, that might introduce a dangerous precedent, and cause anarchy and confusion, and occasion endless appeals from turbulent and factious parties and persons.

"2. Because the votes referred to, though in appearance against the judgment of Presbytery only, yet take in and decide the cause of the commissioners of Market-street congregation, without giving them a fair hearing, contrary to assurance from the Synod.

"3. Because these votes do, as far as the Synod could, destroy a solemn and express stipulation, entered in the united congregation of Market and Pine street, first proposed by their own committee, as appears by their records before us, then prepared with deliberation, and publicly read in, and approved by, the congregation convened for that purpose, on notice from the pulpit, which stipulation, whatever was pretended to the contrary, must either have been the first, and authentic, or superseded whatever was before it. This authentic contract, we apprehend, it is not in the power of the Synod either to dispense with, or violate. This strange judgment seemed to be chiefly founded on the erroneous supposition that the stipulations gave one society domination over the other, whereas it appears to be agreed that the ministers of both houses should preach in rotation, and be equally chosen by a majority of both.

"4. Because these votes are directly the reverse of what the Synod judged in a similar case of New Castle and Christina congregations, where the difficulties were not so great as in the present case, which we think appears evidently partial.

"5. Because the votes referred to were hurried on precipitately, and in a way not usual here, occasioning some confusion, and plainly calculated to stop further reasoning, when the greater part of the members were not heard on the subject.

"6. Finally, because these votes which we dissent from, carried in such a manner, evidently tend to injure the civil property of the people of Market-street; to take away their house, which they evidently begun and carried on at a vast expense, without any reparation, or otherwise force them into lawsuits, kindle the flames of discord, and unnecessarily destroy the peace of the Presbyterian churches in this city.

ALEXANDER MCDOWELL, MATTHEW WILSON, JAMES LATTA."

And Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Richard Treat are appointed a committee to consider those reasons, and if thought necessary to draw up an answer to them, to be laid before the Synod.

In a reference to the above paper of reasons of dissent, the Synod observe that although their brethren, who signed that paper, have a right to offer their own reasons in their own words, yet the Synod does claim it as their privilege to say, that the brethren have proceeded upon a mistaken view of facts, and have misrepresented the same, particularly in respect to the dissolving solemn

contracts, and determining civil property, both which the Synod disavow, and do think there is no need of any further remark thereupon.

The Presbytery book of Lewestown was revised and approved.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick inform the Synod they have two candidates, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Wallace, who probably can go to Virginia and the Carolinas, in the fall. The Synod accordingly appoint these candidates to supply six months, and as much more as they can conveniently.

Mr. Simonton has leave to go home.

The several Presbyteries were called to render an account agreeably to the order of last year, of the subscriptions for the New Jersey College, and Mr. Halsey was appointed to receive their reports; but finding only Donegal and New Brunswick Presbyteries were prepared to render them, the others are directed to send explicit accounts, according to the order of last year, to Mr. Halsey before September next, that he may lay the whole account before the trustees of said college.

The committee appointed yesterday morning to draw up a minute with respect to the appeal of the Forest congregation from a judgment of the New Castle Presbytery, brought in the following, which, as amended, was approved, and is as follows:

"The Synod judge that the Forest congregation have an undoubted right to a copy of whatever papers relate to their congregational affairs, as united with St. George's; that it is reasonable the people of St. George's should adjust the accounts respecting the glebe money, with the Forest congregation, let them know their dividend thereof, according to the line mentioned in their subscription paper, and allow them their share of all the advantages that have accrued from their common stock, in proportion to their subscriptions; nevertheless the money to continue in the hands of the present trustees until the Forest congregation are erected into a separate society, and have a minister settled among them; that the Forest people complete the line as agreed to between them and St. George's; that as there are yet some of the Forest people who still pay rent for pews at St. George's, it is but equitable that the members of the latter, possessing pews in the Forest church, should do the same there, in order that the Forest people may be able to ascertain what proportion they should have of a minister's labours among them, while they continue united with St. George's. And if there arise any dispute about civil property, the Synod recommend it to them to choose suitable arbiters to settle the same between them. Upon the whole, the Synod do earnestly recommend that they should all cultivate the strictest harmony with each other, and study the things that make for peace and tend to promote their mutual edification."

The remonstrance of the first Presbyterian church in this city, was read a second time, and the committee who brought it in were heard, and after some time and discourse they reduced to writing their request, which is as follows:

"The members of Market street church being informed that the reverend Synod have been pleased to reverse a late judgment of the Presbytery relating to the call of the Rev. Mr. Duffield to their church in Pine street, by which they are like to be affected in some of their most important interests, desire a clear and explicit answer in writing to the following questions: First, whether they are to understand the judgment of the reverend Synod, touching this matter, to be final, and whether the members of said church are hereby precluded from any further hearing in it. Second question, whether the call of the Rev. Mr. Duffield is to their church in Pine street as a minister to officiate in that house, and whether the reverend Synod approve of his being called to officiate there."

After these questions were duly considered, the following answer was voted:

"Gentlemen: I am ordered by the Synod to signify that they reckon their minutes a sufficient answer to both the within questions, and they recommend to both parties if they have any disputes upon temporal property, not to go to law, but to refer their differences to the decision of arbiters mutually chosen.

"Signed by the clerk."

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Donegal expressing some uneasiness with the late conduct of the second Philadelphia Presbytery respecting Mr. Kennedy, the Synod agreed to hear the cause by way of free conference, and all parties having been fully heard, they came to the following conclusion.

That as Mr. Kennedy was not under the particular care of any Presbytery when he came into the bounds of Donegal Presbytery, he ought while he preached there to have been under their care, and accountable to them for his conduct; that the uneasiness with the conduct of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, arose for want of a proper information concerning it, and that Mr. Kennedy be ordered to put himself immediately under the care of the Donegal Presbytery until they shall have proper time to hear and determine any complaints made against him in those parts.

The Presbytery of New Castle expressing some uneasiness at the conduct of the second Philadelphia Presbytery for having received and licensed a certain Mr. John McClean, who they apprehend most properly belonged to the Presbytery of New Castle, and had applied to them to be licensed; and while they were taking the proper steps for obtaining more full satisfaction concerning his church membership and Christian character, he, in the mean time, removed from them and applied to the second Philadelphia Presbytery, and was licensed by them; both the Presbyteries were fully heard in a free conference on this subject, and withdrew. The Synod, after mature deliberation, order Mr. McClean to be cited before the Presbytery of New Castle, with power to them to hear the charges against him and issue the affair in a regular manner, and report to the next meeting of Synod. And the Synod do prohibit the second Philadelphia Presbytery from employing him to preach till the affair shall be concluded.

A petition from the members of the session of the third Presbyterian church in this city, asking advice of this Synod with respect to the execution of their office, in consequence of the judgment of the Synod respecting that church, after it was duly considered they returned the following answer, viz: The Synod advise them to continue to act as elders, but in case they cannot consistently with what they apprehend to be their duty, continue as such, and act upon the decisions of Synod, that they may resign their office, and the congregation proceed to choose other elders who may have freedom to act according to the determinations of the Synod.

In answer to the petition for supplies from Christiana and White Clay creek, we appoint to supply there Dr. Alison the first Sabbath in June, Mr. Hunter the third; Mr. Thomas Read the first Sabbath in July, Mr. Simonton the third; Mr. Green the first Sabbath in August, Mr. Boyd the third, and Mr. John Simpson the fifth.

Overtured, whether the state of the Presbyteries belonging to this Synod is such as contributes most to the interest of religion and the honour of this body. Deferred till next year.

Liberty was asked for ordaining Mr. Daniel Jones, whose state of health

seems to make it necessary he should take a voyage to sea; this was referred to the Presbytery to which he belongs.

Answers to several questions proposed by a committee of the Synod to the Associate Presbytery were brought in; but as the Synod had not time to read them they refer the consideration of them to the following committee, Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. McWhorter, Joseph Treat, William Mills, Caldwell, and Halsey, who are to meet the sixteenth of June at Elizabethtown.

Mr. Sproat is appointed stated clerk to the Synod, to transcribe the minutes and preserve the papers belonging to it, who is ordered to give proper certificates to those appointed upon distant missions.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of May next, to meet in the first Presbyterian church in this city, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1773.

Philadelphia, May 19*th*, 1773.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

From the Dutchess county Presbytery: The Rev. Ichabod Lewis.

From the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Azariah Horton, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, Aaron Richards, Benjamin Hait, Jonathan Murdock, Dr. Rodgers.

From the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, William Schanck, Jacob Vanarsdalen, and Dr. Witherspoon.

From the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Andrew Hunter, James Boyd, James Watt, Benjamin Chesnutt, Alexander Mitchell.

From the second Philadelphia Presbytery: Dr. Alison, and the Rev. John Ewing, John Simonton, John Elder, Joseph Tate, and Patrick Alison.

From the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Joseph Montgomery, William Foster, James Wilson, James Anderson, Samuel Eakin, John Carmichael, James Latta.

From the Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. John Miller.

From the Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. John Roan, John Strain, John Craighead, Hugh Vance, Robert Cooper, John King.

Elders: Messrs. James Edgar, Thomas Beard, William Clark, Matthias Boyd, George Curry, Benjamin Branon, John McCalla, Thomas Reeve, Abraham Vanmiddlesworth, John Johnson, James Jackson, William Peartree Smith, Esq'r. Thomas Waters, Garret Noel, John Smilie.

Ministers absent: Of Dutchess county Presbytery: The Rev. Chancey Graham, Elisha Kent, Samuel Dunlap, Benjamin Strong, Solomon Mead, Eliphalet Ball, Wheeler Case, and Samuel Mills.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Timothy Jones, Jonathan Elmer, Azel Roe, Benjamin Woodruff, Simon Horton, Jacob Green, John Moffat, Hugh Knox, Thomas Lewis, Nathan Kerr, Abner Brush, William Woodhull, Jedidiah Chapman, Samuel Sacket, Alexander Miller, Oliver Deeming, Amzi Lewis.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. William Tennent, John Rosborough, Israel Reed, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, Charles McKnight, John Guild, James Lyon, Job Prudden, Francis Peppard.

Of first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Enoch Green, Nehemiah Greenman.

Of second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Robert McMordie and John Steel.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Smith, William McCannon, Joseph Smith, James Finley, Josiah Lewis, Thomas Read, John Woodhull, Alexander McDowell, John Clark, Sampson Smith, John McCreary.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Matthew Wilson, Alexander Huston, Jacob Kerr.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. James Hunt, John Slemmons, Samuel Thomson, John Hogg, Amos Thomson, James Long.

Absent, the whole Presbyteries of Hanover, Orange, and Suffolk counties.

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Treat opened the Synod by a sermon from 1 Cor. iv. 2.

Mr. Sproat was chosen moderator, Messrs. Spencer and Caldwell clerks.

Dutchess county Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. David Close since the last Synod.

New York Presbytery report, Mr. John Darby has withdrawn from their Presbytery.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, they have licensed Mr. Caleb Wallace to preach as a candidate; and that Mr. Alexander McClane is dismissed from them and removed from the bounds of the Synod.

First Philadelphia Presbytery report, the Rev. Mr. Charles Beatty was removed by death on the thirteenth of August last, and that they have licensed to preach as candidates Mr. Daniel McCalla and Mr. William Hollingshead.

The Second Philadelphia Presbytery report, they have received the Rev. Mr. Hugh McGill from Ireland. But it being objected that he was suspended from his ministry in Ireland by the Associate Presbytery, of which he had been a minister, which was confessed by himself; and the second Philadelphia Presbytery not appearing to us to have had sufficient evidence of the grounds of that suspension, thus virtually to reverse it, nor otherwise to have received satisfactory testimonials in his favour, the Synod therefore reverse that part of the judgment of the Presbytery by which he was received.

New Castle Presbytery report, they have licensed Messrs. Samuel Stanhope Smith, Nathaniel Irwin, Robert Davidson, Samuel Dougal, and James Power.

Donegal Presbytery report, they have ordained Mr. William Thom and licensed Mr. Thomas McFerrin, and received the Rev. Mr. Robert Huey from the Presbytery of Derry in Ireland, and the Rev. Messrs. David Maclure and Levi Frisby from New England. But it appearing to the Synod that these two last mentioned were under the direction of the board of correspondents from the society of Scotland and appointed to an Indian Mission, and are not dismissed from the ecclesiastical council by which they were ordained in New England, the Synod reverse the judgment of the Presbytery receiving them into full membership, but approve of their taking them under their care while they are labouring occasionally in the bounds of the Presbytery.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Robert Smith, Charles McKnight, John Slemmons, Joseph Smith, ministers; and Mr. Robert Armour, elder.)

It was moved that the dismission or reception of members and candidates be made matter of report by our several Presbyteries, which was agreed to.

In consequence of which the Presbytery of New York report, they had dismissed Mr. Francis Peppard to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and the

Presbytery of New Brunswick report, they have received him, and that they have dismissed Mr. Caleb Wallace to join one of the southern Presbyteries in the bounds of which he may labour.

The Presbytery of Donegall report, they have dismissed Mr. George Duffield, who had accepted a call to a congregation under the care of the second Philadelphia Presbytery.

The Rev. Mr. William Stuart produced a certificate and recommendation from the Presbytery of Derry in Ireland, of which he had been a member, and as he proposes to travel to the southern provinces, he desired the Synod would give him such recommendation as they might judge expedient, without his being considered as a member, which he does not yet choose till he can determine the place of his settlement.

Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Miller, Mr. Latta, and Dr. Rodgers, are appointed to converse with Mr. Stuart and make report to the Synod.

Messrs. Lewis, Hait, Joseph Treat, Richards, Halsey, McKnight, Hunter, Chesnutt, Patrick Alison, Simonton, Foster, Latta, Miller, Roan, Craighead, William Clark, James Jackson, and John McCalla, are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and as often afterwards by adjournment as they may judge expedient.

Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Patrick Alison are appointed a committee to examine the New York Presbytery book.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Robert Smith to examine the Presbytery book of New Brunswick.

Mr. Ewing and Mr. Tate to examine the book of the first Philadelphia Presbytery.

Mr. Joseph Treat and Mr. Foster to examine the second Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Mr. Cooper and Mr. King to examine the Presbytery book of New Castle.

The other Presbytery books are not brought in.

The Synod appoint as their commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Alison, John Ewing, Elihu Spencer, William Tennent, Dr. Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, William Mills, John Close, Solomon Mead, Ichabod Lewis, Robert Smith, Joseph Montgomery, Matthew Wilson, John Miller, George Duffield, John Roan, with the moderator; and Messrs. William Peartree Smith, John McCalla, Garret Noel, John Johnson, James Jackson, and William Clark, elders; thirteen of whom to be a quorum, to be called by the moderator; but if the moderator should die, or be absent, the first in order in the minute shall have power to call the commission and preside.

Inquiry being made at the several Presbyteries, how far they had complied with the recommendation of the Synod in raising money for the education of poor pious youth, it was found the Presbyteries of New York, New Brunswick, and the members of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, had complied fully, and had several young men at education; some of the other Presbyteries have done something, but have not answered the design of the Synod. They are now ordered to prosecute this important plan, as speedily as possible, and be ready to make a particular report to the next Synod.

The committee appointed to dispose of money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey, for poor and pious youth, report, they met according to appointment, and disposed of the money in hand last year. And the Synod appoint for a committee to dispose of such money as shall be due October next, Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Tennent, Guild, Ewing, Spencer, Caldwell, Halsey, Richard Treat, Israel Read, McWhorter, any three of whom to

be a quorum, to attend at New Jersey College the third Wednesday of August next.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M., the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Messrs. Matthew Wilson, William Thom, Alexander McDowell, and Robert Huey, ministers; and Messrs. William Denny, and Anthony Tate, elders.)

The Presbytery of Donegal complied with the appointment of last year, to supply Monongahela. The Presbytery of New Castle did the same.

Mr. McMordie complied with his appointment and went to Carolina.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia found it inexpedient to send the candidates to Carolina, which they mentioned last year.

Mr. Joshua Hart, of Suffolk Presbytery, did not comply with the appointment of the Synod last year to go to Carolina.

Mr. Schank gave sufficient reasons for leaving the Synod last year without leave.

Mr. Elmer did not comply with the appointment of Synod last year.

Mr. Simpson complied with the appointment of the last Synod, and supplied seven months in the southern provinces.

Mr. Wallace was providentially prevented going according to his appointment.

Mr. John McClean did not attend the Presbytery of New Castle according to the appointment of last Synod, to answer the charges exhibited against his moral character, but hath gone to Carolina, and is preaching contrary to order, and under the pretence of being a candidate in regular standing with one of our Presbyteries. The Synod is also informed, that Mr. John Beard, who was deposed from the work of the ministry, is also preaching in Carolina.

Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Caldwell are appointed to bring in a draught of a letter to the Presbyteries of Hanover, in Virginia, and Orange, in Carolina, with respect to these gentlemen. And as we are informed, Mr. McClean shows a certificate signed with Mr. Tate's name as clerk to a committee of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, which Mr. Tate says is forged; he is therefore desired to write to the Presbytery aforesaid to inform them of the imposition.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day. Nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(With the Rev. Mr. Thomas Read.)

Mr. Brainerd reports the Indian school under his care has not been continued the last year, he not being able to obtain a proper master, but that he had as often as consistent with his other business, attended to the instruction of the children.

And he further reports, that he preaches in seven places, besides the two Indian societies under his special care. For these services the Synod allow Mr. Brainerd twenty-five pounds. Ordered, that the treasurer pay the same.

Mr. Brainerd is also allowed the eighteen pounds, interest of money in the hands of the trustees of New Jersey College, for an Indian mission.

Agreed that the treasurer for the Synod, for the future give bond to three members, chosen by the Synod, for all the money in his hands, and that he allow for it three per cent. per annum interest.

The Synod then made choice of Dr. Witherspoon for their treasurer, and Dr. Alison, Mr. Richard Treat, and Mr. Sproat, are directed to take a proper bond from Dr. Witherspoon for the money which shall be in his hands at the end of this session of Synod, payable to them in one year for the use of the Synod.

And Mr. Treat, our late treasurer, is ordered to pay to Dr. Witherspoon the money now in his hands belonging to the Synod.

Messrs. Montgomery and Caldwell brought in a draught of a letter to the Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange, according to the order of yesterday, which was approved of.

Ordered, That the clerks make out fair copies of said letter, and that the moderator sign them, and send one copy to each Presbytery aforesaid, as soon as possible.

The stated clerk is ordered to record this letter in the Appendix.

The minutes of the last General Convention were brought by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read; and as the convention is to meet again at Stanford, in Connecticut, the first Wednesday in September next, at eleven o'clock, we appoint to attend there, and to act as members from the Synod, the Rev. Dr. Francis Alison, Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. John Rodgers, Andrew Hunter, Elihu Spencer, John Brainerd, Benjamin Hait, John Ewing, Benjamin Chesnutt, Joseph Montgomery, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, John Carmichael, William Mills, John Close, Jeremiah Halsey, Samuel Mills, and Ichabod Lewis; and Dr. Witherspoon to open the convention with a sermon, but in case he should fail, Mr. McWhorter is appointed in his room.

The committee appointed in behalf of the Synod to dispose of money in the hands of the corporation of the widows' fund, read their minutes before the Synod, which were approved; and we appoint as a committee for the same purpose this year, Messrs. Spencer, Sproat, Montgomery, McWhorter, and Caldwell, to meet to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, at Mr. Sproat's, and as often afterwards as expedient.

Mr. Samuel Eakin being by last Synod restored to the exercise of his ministry for one year, and put under the particular care of New Castle Presbytery, the Presbytery was now called upon, and reports as follows:

"That immediately after the last session of Synod they received the Rev. Samuel Eakin under their care, and since that time he has laboured in the work of the ministry, at their direction, and that he has behaved himself in a becoming and regular manner as far as is known to them."

The Synod hoping the censures inflicted upon Mr. Eakin have had their proper influence, and that from his conduct the year past, his repentance is sincere, do therefore now fully restore him to the exercise of the ministry; and do earnestly recommend to him the greatest humility, circumspection, and meekness, through the remaining part of his life. And as Mr. Eakin has the prospect of labouring at present chiefly in the bounds of the first Philadelphia Presbytery, he is therefore joined to that.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With the Rev. Mr. James Long, who gave sufficient reasons for not coming sooner.)

Upon inquiry being made of the several Presbyteries concerning their compliance with the order of last Synod, to collect for the charitable uses then mentioned, it was found that some Presbyteries, through mistake or neglect,

have not complied. Those who have collected are ordered to pay the same into the hands of the Synod's treasurer immediately; and those Presbyteries who have not collected, are ordered to do it speedily; as also those who have done it in part, are ordered to complete what is yet unfinished. And they are now directed to make those collections in vacancies as well as congregations which have settled ministers. And that this may be done more thoroughly, we order the several Presbyteries to make this known at their first session, and then take proper care to have the collections made in their bounds, and provide that a complete list be made out, of ministers and congregations, with their collections, to be laid before and examined by the respective Presbyteries, at some session previous to the meeting of the Synod, and prepared for printing next year, without taking up the time of the Synod. Those ministers who have not read the Pastoral Letter to their congregations, are directed to do it, and also in the vacancies.

Dr. Rodgers is appointed to acquaint the Presbytery of Suffolk of this matter, and the clerks to send attested copies of this order to the Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange, and to send them some of our Pastoral Letters by Mr. Wallace, a candidate going to the southward.

For the purpose of procuring books to bestow on the poor: in Philadelphia, Dr. Francis Alison, Mr. Sproat, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. John Bayard, and Mr. Jonathan Smith; and in New York, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Treat, Mr. McWhorter, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. Noel, are appointed as committees, and that they do not exceed the sum of twenty pounds, pro. cur., to be laid out by each committee, and that they draw on the treasurer for this sum.

The Presbytery of New York applied to the Synod for the whole or part of the money collected by them this year, to be applied towards the rebuilding the Presbyterian church in the island of Saba, which was destroyed by the hurricane last year. The petition from Saba to the Presbytery was read, and the Presbytery offered their reasons for appropriating said money. The Synod remitted to the Presbytery to determine what part of said money should be allowed to Saba; and the Presbytery, after consulting, reported that they determined fifty pounds should be allowed for that purpose, which is accordingly agreed to, and the treasurer is ordered to pay that sum into the hands of Dr. Rodgers, to be remitted to Saba.

The Presbyteries of New York, New Castle, Suffolk, Dutchess, and the first Philadelphia Presbytery, which have not complied with the order of last Synod to transmit to Mr. Halsey an account of the money subscribed in their bounds to the college of New Jersey, are ordered to comply as speedily as possible.

Mr. Samuel Kennedy, a candidate, did not comply with the order of last Synod, to put himself under the care of Donegal Presbytery, although he hath continued to preach in their bounds. Mr. Kennedy gave in a paper to the Synod, assigning the reasons of his conduct. The consideration of this affair is deferred.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Except Mr. Thomas Waters, who is gone home.

The consideration of Mr. Kennedy's conduct resumed. Mr. Kennedy was fully heard, and as he had in offering his reasons blamed the Presbytery, they were also heard. After due consideration, the question was put, Is Mr. Kennedy excusable or not; and it was carried, not.

Adjourned till Monday morning, ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, ten o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

With Mr. John Golden, an elder.

It was moved what censure should be inflicted upon Mr. Kennedy, in consequence of the judgment of Saturday last, and after it was considered and debated, ordered that he be rebuked from the chair for not complying with the order of last Synod to put himself under the care of Donegal Presbytery, and be remitted to the Presbytery, who are required to give him, before the Synod break up, a copy of such charges as they have now against him, and cite him to appear before them, to take his trial, the last Tuesday in June next, at Caughnawaga.

The Presbytery of Donegal requested that some members of Synod might be joined with them on the trial.

Ordered, That Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. Latta, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Woodhull, be added to them for that purpose.

And Mr. Cooper is appointed to cite such evidences as the Presbytery may judge necessary, and to give Mr. Kennedy citations for such evidences as he may require.

Mr. Kennedy was then called in, submitted to the judgment, and was rebuked by the moderator.

The committee appointed last Synod to consider the answers given by the Associate Presbytery to sundry questions which had been proposed by the Synod's committee, report: they met, and did read and consider said answers, and did not think it necessary to make any remarks upon them, nor to give any other answer to the Presbytery than as follows: that as the Associate brethren had not given any answer to the proposal of the committee from the Synod the year before, viz., that if anything was to be done further toward a coalition between the Associate brethren and the Synod, the proposal must come from the former, which they, the committee, should be ready to receive any time before next Synod. But that no such proposal has been made to them.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment Post preces sederunt qui supra.

With Mr. Thomas Bourne, Mr. Richard Treat's elder.

An overture respecting the regulation of the Presbyteries referred from the last Synod, is referred till the next year.

A petition and complaint from Mr. Alexander Alexander, against the second Philadelphia Presbytery, was brought in by the committee of overtures, and read. But it appearing to the Synod the matter of which he complains had not been decided by the Presbytery, ordered, that it be referred to the Presbytery, who are required to hear it this evening or to-morrow.

An overture was brought in by Mr. Roan in the following words:

"Whereas, there have been repeated complaints from serious persons of the degeneracy of many of the Presbyterian denomination in Great Britain and Ireland, and their falling off from the great doctrines of the Reformation, so that it is very possible there may be Presbyteries the majority of which would not be unwilling to license, ordain, or recommend ministers unsound in the faith; it seems to be of moment to guard against the admission of strangers into this body, before their principles and character are thoroughly ascertained: Therefore it is overtured, that no Presbytery be permitted to receive any stranger under the character of minister or candidate, or to give him appoint-

ments in the congregations under our care, until the Synod that shall meet next after their arrival, that the whole testimonials and credentials offered by such persons be laid before the Synod, to be by them considered and judged of, in order to their admission or rejection.

"JOHN ROAN."

Which after full consideration was voted and admitted by a small majority.

Several members desired liberty to enter their dissent, with their reasons, against the preceding vote, which was granted.

Their reasons are in the following words:

"The second Presbytery of Philadelphia unanimously dissent from, and protest against, the injurious law recorded above.

"1. Because it takes away from the Presbyteries some of their essential rights, restraining them from performing the duties of ordaining and admitting ministers agreeably to the Scriptures and the constitution and practice of the Presbyterian churches. Christ has vested his ministers with certain powers for the edification of his church, which they may not surrender or deliver up to the dominion of any man, or any body of men, whatever. If they err in the exercise of their powers they are accountable to the higher judicatures of the church, but they are not to be deprived of them merely because they may err in the exercise of them.

"2. Because it insinuates a strong suspicion that Presbyteries are unfaithful or unsound, and therefore not to be trusted in this matter, which is fixing an unjust reproach on their judicatures, and only serves to lessen their credit and influence.

"3. Because it is highly uncharitable and inconsistent with the love, respect, and fellowship which we owe the Protestant churches abroad, as it brings a promiscuous charge of unsoundness against, and lays an heavy reproach upon all the judicatures of their churches, contrary to all justice and modesty, and to the peace and harmony which should be promoted among the churches of Christ.

"4. Because unfriendly, unequal, and offensive treatment of ministers and candidates who are strangers, tends to fill them with prejudices against this body, as acting in an arbitrary, uncharitable manner, and inconsistent with the known rules of Presbyterianism, which will deter them from uniting with the Synod, and induce them to erect Presbyteries independent of it, to the great dishonour and injury of religion.

"5. Because the precedent hereby established is not only wrong in itself, as it divests our Presbyteries of their inherent rights, but extremely pernicious in its consequences. If the Synod is allowed this power with respect to ministers or probationers from Europe, why may it not at any time be pleaded with respect to those from every other part of the world? Why may not the Synod, claiming thus far, extend their authority to the ordination of all our American probationers under some plausible pretences, such as, that the Synod is more faithful, or more learned, or fitter to judge of the piety of those who are to be received?

"6. Because we have rules of proceeding as a Presbyterian church, respecting this matter, which from long experience have been found sufficient to preserve this Synod pure and free from errors; these rules are agreeable to our Presbyterian plan, and consistent with the several rights of our respective judicatures, whereas the present one is useless, unwarranted, and anti-Presbyterial.

"7. As the agreements of 1764 and 1765 were repeatedly alleged to be, and evidently are, for the same purpose pretended in the overture now made a religious law, in which the northern provinces are expressly named, and as these provinces were repeatedly mentioned in the course of the debate, and nothing

said, or even insinuated, that they were excluded, during the whole time in which this matter was argued, nor when the overture was read before it was voted, it must appear equivocation to explain the meaning of the law in a sense that would except the American Continent, to relieve some dissenting brethren, leaving others deeply grieved and afflicted.

"Against the aforesaid law, therefore, we, the second Presbytery of Philadelphia, do protest in our Presbyterial capacity, and hereby enter our reasons upon record, to relieve our consciences, and testify our opposition to what is so partial, so uncharitable, so unjust and oppressive.

"FRANCIS ALISON, JOHN ELDER, JOSEPH TATE, JOHN EWING, JOHN SIMONTON, PATRICK ALISON."

Dissentient: Dr. Rodgers, Joseph Montgomery, Alexander McWhorter, John Miller, Alexander McDowell, James Anderson, Thomas Read, James Caldwell.

Reasons of dissent from an overture formed into an act of Synod, ordaining that no minister or candidate from foreign parts shall be admitted to membership by any Presbytery, but by the Synod alone.

"Dissentient, 1. Because this overture tends to overthrow the essential rights of a Presbytery, the radical judicature of our church, unwarranted in Scripture, and from which we derive our name, Presbyterians. The power of ordination, of receiving and rejecting members, evidently belongs, according to God's word, to this judicature only. But this overture takes it away from it, and gives its work and power to a Syond, which is only a voluntary association of different Presbyteries, or a council to give advice in difficult matters, and to secure peace, orthodoxy, edification, and mutual confidence, and has no power to make any arbitrary decisions, to which Presbyteries can only submit when their arbitrations are for the good of the whole.

"2. Because this overture is very uncharitable and contrary to the dictates of the humble and affectionate temper of the gospel, which 'esteems others better than ourselves,' and 'thinketh no evil.' It strongly implies that our Presbyteries are either so ignorant as not to know, or so degenerate as not to regard, the qualifications of their own members, and would 'lay hands suddenly on any man,' and admit to the ministry or to the rights of membership, without proper testimonials and authentic recommendations.

"3. Because it discovers great want of candour in judging of other churches of Christ, as if all the reformed churches, solemnly subscribing or assenting to the same Confession of Faith, the same Catechisms, and the same directory or plan of discipline and government, were wholly corrupted in faith or practice, notwithstanding their solemn assent or subscription to the forms of sound doctrine.

"4. Because this overture is founded on very unjustifiable reasoning, viz. that because some individuals, or perhaps some judicatures, in the foreign churches have been branded, and perhaps justly, with Socinian and other dangerous errors, that therefore their whole associations are corrupted; which mode of judging would condemn equally every Christian association in the world.

"5. Because the explanatory clause added, in order to exempt all preachers or ministers coming from any part of America, seems to be a mere subterfuge and equivocation, and calculated to relieve only a few members of the Synod. For before the votes confirming this overture, the New England churches were more than once mentioned as an objection against it, and it could scarcely have been forgotten by the voters; but suppose they had been forgotten, whence arises this partiality? May not ministers who are pious and sound in the faith come from Great Britain or Ireland? And are not Presbyteries by the consti-

tution of our church and the authority of its great Head, the only judges of their admission?

"6. Because this overture evidently tends to produce contentions, confusion, and anarchy in the churches, for if the Synod will assume these high, unscriptural powers, it may be expected that some Presbyteries will resign their connection with a power they esteem tyrannical, and returning to their original state claim the enjoyment of their own inherent privileges.

"7. Because, finally, this overture evidently tends to stigmatize and throw scandal on the British and Irish churches, to the breaking the bonds of peace, union, charity, and mutual love between them and us, to represent us to them as narrow, factious bigots, and may provoke them to send into America new Presbyteries of their own, to erect new judicatures, altar against altar, to the great injury of the work of God, and edification of souls, to the grieving the Holy Spirit of God, and giving distress of mind to the sincere followers of the Prince of Peace.

"MATTHEW WILSON, JAMES LATTA, JOHN KING, JAMES LANG."

With respect to the reasons of protest against and dissent from the judgment of Synod about the admission of ministers and candidates from some of the foreign churches, offered by a number of the members, the Synod judge it sufficient briefly to observe:

That neither in the overture presented to the Synod, nor in our judgment consequent upon it, is there any claim of power inconsistent with those rights of Presbyteries which the dissenting brethren suppose are radically in them, and essential to them. The powers of licensure and ordination are not so much as mentioned in the overture, nor in the least infringed upon in the judgment, and it would be a difficult task for them to undertake the proof, even upon their own principles, that the right of admitting persons already licensed or ordained belongs to Presbyteries exclusively. The dissenting brethren seem to have wholly mistaken the main ground of the overture, which does not at all appear to have arisen from a suspicion of unfaithfulness in any of our Presbyteries, or that the ministry in Britain and Ireland are wholly corrupted, but only that there is so great a degeneracy in those churches as renders it peculiarly necessary that the greatest care be taken in the admission of ministers and candidates coming from thence, and that the several Presbyteries neither have, nor can have, those means of information respecting the characters and orthodoxy of those ministers and candidates the Synod has, nor indeed such means as are necessary to enable them to judge with any sufficient degree of certainty respecting them. Nor can the overture by any means be allowed to be inconsistent with the charity due to the churches of Britain and Ireland, as it is not so severe with respect to foreigners, as the Synods of Scotland are with respect to their own candidates, and as the degeneracy of those churches, which was one of the principal facts upon which the overture was founded, has not been denied by any of the dissentients. And, finally, we observe, that as the overture only held up to view the churches of Britain and Ireland, it is most unfair to infer that the explanatory clause annexed to the judgment "seemed to be a mere subterfuge and equivocation, and calculated to relieve only a few members of Synod."

At the same time it was agreed that it should be put upon record that the word *strangers* in the preceding overture should not be extended to any persons from any part of the continent of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

It was moved by Dr. Rodgers, and seconded by others, that the operation of the above overture should be suspended till next year; which, being opposed, the consideration of the motion is deferred till Thursday morning.

The second Philadelphia Presbytery referred to the Synod the appeal of Mr. Alexander Alexander from a judgment of the session of the third Presbyterian congregation in this city, which is agreed shall be considered to-morrow afternoon.

A complaint was brought in by the Rev. Mr. George Duffield against the second Philadelphia Presbytery, that they had by one of their members obstructed his entrance into a church in this city under their care, to which he had accepted a call, and had also refused to receive him as a member, although he was dismissed from, and recommended by, the Presbytery of Donegal, which was read.

The minutes of the second Philadelphia Presbytery with respect to the complaint of Mr. Duffield were also read, assigning the reasons of their conduct.

A petition and remonstrance from the incorporated committee of the Presbyterian churches in Market and Pine streets in this city, was also brought in and read, setting forth that Mr. Duffield, by the assistance of a part of the congregation of Pine street, had taken forcible possession of their church in Pine street, on the twenty-seventh day of September last, and praying we would take proper care to afford them such relief as the nature of the case required from us.

The address and representation of the committee of the third Presbyterian church in Pine street in this city, was brought in and read, stating their conduct in obtaining and introducing Mr. Duffield into the church.

After the Presbytery had stated the case and the reason of their conduct, Mr. Duffield was fully heard, and the Presbytery replied. The parties being fully heard were ordered to withdraw, and the Synod agreed to proceed to judgment in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed agreeably to the agreement of the forenoon, to form a judgment in the cause depending between Mr. Duffield and the second Philadelphia Presbytery. And after having maturely considered this matter, the Synod judge that Mr. Duffield had just cause of complaint against the conduct and judgment of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, who ought to have admitted him to membership with them and allowed him a fair trial, wherefore we now declare him to be minister of the Pine street or third Presbyterian congregation in this city, and order, that he be put upon the list of the aforesaid Presbytery.

Mr. Schank asked leave to go home.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With the Rev. Mr. John Woodhull, who gave sufficient reason for not coming sooner; and also the Hon. Richard Stockton, Dr. Witherspoon's elder.)

A request from Lewestown Presbytery was presented, that the Rev. Mr. Thomas Reed, the Rev. Mr. Josiah Lewis, and Mr. Thomas Smith, a candidate under the care of New Castle Presbytery, should be set off from New Castle Presbytery and annexed to them. The Synod, after considering the matter, concluded only to set off Mr. Josiah Lewis for the present, who is hereby dismissed from the New Castle Presbytery, and joined to them.

A petition and remonstrance from the incorporated committee of the Presbyterian churches of Market and Pine streets in this city, was brought in and read, alleging that the Rev. Mr. George Duffield had taken possession of their church in Pine street in a violent manner, and praying he might be prohibited by this Synod from persisting in his conduct, and dismissed from their church.

Mr. George Bryan appeared and informed the Synod, in the name of the corporation, that they withdrew their cause from our bar for reasons which he mentioned, and was directed to deliver to us in writing.

The committee appointed to converse with Mr. Stuart, report, that they had done so at considerable length, and were fully satisfied with the testimonials produced with respect to his character and morals, and well pleased with the modesty and candour of his conversation, but that they did not find his views as to the ministry or employment in future life so fixed as that it could be of any importance to us or unto himself to join with this Synod under the character of a minister, nor did he himself desire it, so withdrew his request.

An appeal was brought in by several members of the second Presbyterian congregation in this city, from a judgment of the first Philadelphia Presbytery, confirming the judgment of the session of the second Presbyterian church, with respect to the introduction of Dr. Watts's imitation of the psalms into public worship; and as the moderator was a member of the Presbytery from whose judgment they appealed, he left the chair, and Mr. Joseph Treat took his place. The case was stated, the minutes of Presbytery read, and the parties fully heard and withdrew. The Synod, after considering the matter, declare that with respect to the judgment of the Presbytery, although it appears to be drawn up with great caution and tenderness, yet they do not think it proper finally to judge and decide upon it at present, but appoint Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Strain, and Mr. McWhorter, a committee to converse with the parties in the congregation, who differ about psalmody, and make report to the Synod to-morrow afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To hear the reference by the second Philadelphia Presbytery of Mr. Alexander Alexander's appeal from the judgment of the session of the third Presbyterian church in this city.

After stating the cause and reading the judgment of the session and the appeal, both parties were fully heard. And the Synod finding, that as the session had not a minister of the word to preside through the course of the trial, and that a minister was the accuser of the appellant, it was judged it was at least inexpedient to proceed to trial, and upon the whole we think it best, and do remit the matter back to the Presbytery, to be heard and judged of by them *de novo.*

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, eight o'clock, the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The order of the morning being called for, Dr. Rodgers withdrew the motion made by him on Tuesday last, and another member moved in the following words: "Whereas many brethren are dissatisfied with the act of Synod respecting the non-admission of ministers and candidates into our Presbyteries from foreign parts, it is proposed, that the Presbytery to which any such gentlemen may offer themselves, may be allowed, if they see their way clear, to employ them in their vacancies, but that they be not admitted to full membership until the next Synod, when their testimonials and recommendations shall be laid before the Synod." Which being considered was agreed to by the Synod, and is to regulate the conduct of the Presbyteries, notwithstanding the overture proposed and voted on Monday last.

A petition from the Presbyterian congregation in Pine street in this city, was brought in, praying to be taken from under the care of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, and put under some other. Mr. Duffield, the minister of said congregation, being present, and requesting for himself to be annexed to the first Philadelphia Presbytery; the Synod do grant their requests, and set off Mr. Duffield, and the congregation aforesaid, from the Presbytery to which they now belong, and annex him to and put them under the care of the first Philadelphia Presbytery.

The Presbytery books of New Castle, the first and second Philadelphia Presbyteries, and of New Brunswick, were brought in and approved.

Applications were presented for supplies from the Hawfields and Eno in North Carolina, and from St. Paul's parish in Georgia; in answer to which we appoint Mr. John Simpson and Mr. Caleb Wallace, candidates, to supply in the former places as much as they conveniently can before next Synod; and Mr. Wallace from thence to visit St. Paul's parish in Georgia, and preach there some time, and the remainder of their time in the other vacancies in the southern provinces.

As the Presbytery of New Castle have sundry candidates under their care, some of whom probably can take appointments to the southern provinces, the Presbytery are desired to consider this matter as soon as possible, and send such and as many as they find expedient.

The moderator is appointed to give proper recommendations to those who go on those missions.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to converse with the parties in the second Presbyterian church in this city, differing about psalmody, report, that they have taken opportunities of conversing with both parties, so far as the time and circumstances would permit, and that they do not think the Synod should directly judge of the merits of the appeal, so as to affirm or disapprove the several distinct propositions laid down by the Presbytery in their judgment; but as there is not now time to consider fully the different versions of the psalms in question, and there are minutes of Synod formerly, which countenance congregations in determining this matter according to their own choice, they cannot make any order to forbid the congregation to continue the practice now begun. Which being considered was approved, and the Synod on this occasion think proper earnestly to recommend to both parties peace and harmony, and to forbear all harsh sentiments and expressions, and in particular that neither of

them intimate that either of the versions in question is unfit to be sung in Christian worship.

Mr. George Bryan, by the hands of the janitor, delivered into the Synod a paper containing the reasons of the corporation's withdrawing their petition and remonstrance, which are as follows:

"The complainants, after opening in a general manner the matters they could have proved, in order to enforce the prayer of their remonstrance before the Reverend Synod, do say we purposed to have gone fully into these matters, but from what passed here yesterday it appears to us that many of the members, without having then entered on our complaint, though upon the eve and in full prospect of so doing, have declared themselves very fully as to the irregularities and violences imputed to the Rev. Mr. Duffield and some of his adherents, and that Mr. Duffield hath been established, as far as the Synod can do it, pastor of Pine street church, against the very prayer of our supplication. Whilst our complaint is thus manifestly prejudged, we cannot but observe that ridicule is set up by some of the members as the test of truth, and characters wantonly attacked in a manner unbecoming the gentleman and the Christian. What then have we to do but to retire from your bar?"

After much conversation and great deliberation, it is overtured, that as George Bryan, Esq. and William Miller, in the name of the incorporated committee, presented a petition and remonstrance, charging Mr. Duffield with sundry high crimes and misdemeanors, and praying that he might be removed from the pulpit and church in Pine street; but some time after those gentlemen withdrew their said petition, and assigned their reasons therefor, which are ordered to be recorded on our minutes, the Synod therefore finding no accusers, do acquit him, the said Mr. Duffield, from all charges contained in the aforesaid petition and remonstrance.

Application was made from the two Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange, that every Presbytery to the eastward, should transmit to them with all convenient speed, the suspension or deposition of any member or candidate from their bodies, to prevent the Presbyteries aforesaid being imposed upon by such persons.

The Synod cheerfully comply with their request, and order the Presbyteries to regulate themselves accordingly.

Adjourned to meet at Philadelphia the third Wednesday in May next, at ten o'clock, at the second Presbyterian church. Concluded with prayer.

1774.

Philadelphia, May 18*th*, 1774.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the Presbytery of Lewestown: The Rev. John Miller.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev John Todd.

Of Orange Presbytery: The Rev. David Caldwell and Hezekiah Balch.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Cooper and John Slemmons

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Smith, William McKennan, William Forster, John Clark, John Carmichael, Thomas Read, James Wilson, James Anderson, and John Woodhull.

Of first Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Richard Treat, James Sproat, Andrew Hunter, James Boyd, George Duffield, Benjamin Chesnutt, Alexander Mitchell, and Samuel Eakin.

Of second Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Patrick Alison.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. William Tennent, Israel Reed, John Rosborough, and William Schanck.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Azariah Horton, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Jedidiah Chapman, and Alexander Miller.

Elders: Messrs. Joseph Cowan, George Curry, James Ewing, Thomas Hope, Francis Alexander, John McCalla, Daniel Clark, and John Walker.

Absent: Of the Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, and Josiah Lewis.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. James Waddell, Richard Zanchy, David Rice, Samuel Leake, William Ervin, John Brown, and Charles Cummings.

Of Orange Presbytery: The Rev. Hugh McAden, Henry Patillo, Joseph Alexander, Hezekiah James Balch, John Harris, James Creswell, James Campbell, John Simpson, Thomas Reese, and James Edmond.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Hugh Vance, John King, John Craighead, John Strain, James Lang, Amos Thompson, Joseph Rhea, Samuel Thompson, James Hunt, John Roan, and John Hogg.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Alexander McDowell, James Finley, James Latta, Joseph Montgomery, Joseph Smith, John McCreary, and Thomas Smith.

Of Philadelphia first Presbytery: The Rev. Nehemiah Greenman, Enoch Green, John Brainerd, James Watt, and William Hollingshead.

Of Philadelphia second Presbytery: The Rev. Francis Alison, John Ewing, John Simonton, Joseph Tate, John Elder, John Steel, Robert McMordie, and Robert Davidson.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Charles McKnight, Thomas Smith, Jacob Van Artsdalen, Dr. John Witherspoon, John Guild, Elihu Spencer, Samuel Kennedy, Jeremiah Halsey, John Hannah, Francis Peppard, Job Prudden, and James Lyon.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. John Rodgers, Joseph Treat, Jacob Green, Timothy Jones, Thomas Lewis, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Hait, Aaron Richards, Benjamin Woodruff, Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, Amzi Lewis, Samuel Sacket, John Close, Andrew Bay, Hugh Knox, Simon Horton, John Moffat, Abner Brush, and William Woodhull.

The whole Presbytery of Suffolk and Dutchess county.

The Rev. Mr. Sproat, the moderator, opened the Synod with a sermon, from 1 Cor. i. 23, 24.

Mr. Robert Smith was chosen moderator, Mr. Duffield and Mr Forster were chosen clerks.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With the Rev. Messrs. James Latta, David Caldwell, Jacob Vanarsdalen, James Finley, Dr. John Rodgers, and Messrs. Anthony Tate and Robert Evans, elders.)

The reasons of the Rev. Messrs. Tennent, Clark, Rosborough, Israel Reed, and McKennan, for their absence from Synod last year, were sustained; as were also those of the Rev. Messrs. Todd, Hezekiah Balch, and David Caldwell, for their absence from several former meetings of Synod.

Donegal Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. John Black, and suspended the Rev. Robert Hughey since the last meeting of Synod; and that the Rev. William Thom was removed by death some time in last August.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have suspended the Rev. Sampson

Smith since our last, and ordained Mr. Thomas Smith to the work of the ministry.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained Mr. William Hollinshead to the work of the ministry since our last, who being present took his seat.

The second Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained Mr. Robert Davison to the work of the ministry since our last, who being present took his seat accordingly.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. Moses Allen, Oliver Reese, and John De Bow, and dismissed Mr. John Simpson, a licensed candidate, to Orange Presbytery.

New York Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. Matthias Burnet, Joseph Periam, and Samuel McCorkle; and received the Rev. Andrew Bay from New Castle Presbytery, and the Rev. John Close from Suffolk Presbytery, and Mr. Joseph Grover, a licensed candidate, from New England; and dismissed the Rev Jonathan Murdoch to Connecticut, in consequence of a call to him from a congregation there, and that the Rev. Oliver Deeming has been removed by death since our last. We are informed that the Rev. William Mills, a member of Suffolk Presbytery, was removed by death the 18th of last March.

Orange Presbytery report, that they have received the Rev. John Harris from Lewestown Presbytery, the Rev. James Campbell from the South Presbytery, and the Rev. James Edmonds; and have licensed and ordained to the work of the ministry, Mr. Thomas Reese, and have also ordained Mr. John Simpson.

Hanover Presbytery report, that they have licensed Messrs. Caleb Wallace, and Samuel Edmiston, and suspended the Rev. Alexander Miller; and that the Rev. Messrs. Black and Campbell are removed by death, and the Rev. Mr. Craig also, in last April.

The Rev. Messrs. John Miller, Todd, David Caldwell, Cooper, Chesnutt, Mitchell, Patrick Alison, Israel Reed, Azariah Horton, Alexander Miller, Latta, and John Woodhull; with Messrs. McCalla, Clark, Cowan, Curry, and Ewing, elders, are appointed a committee of overtures to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and by adjournment afterwards as often as occasion may require.

Messrs. Hunter and Boyd are appointed a committee to examine the Orange Presbytery book.

Messrs. McWhorter and Alexander Miller, to examine Donegal Presbytery book.

Messrs. John Miller and James Caldwell, to examine New Castle Presbytery book.

Messrs. Israel Reed and Chapman, to examine the first Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Messrs. Cowper and Foster, to examine the New York Presbytery book.

The Presbyteries of Donegal and New Castle have in some measure complied with the recommendation of the last Synod, for raising money to assist in the education of pious young men for the ministry, who are unable to support themselves; Lewestown, and the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, have not; neither have Hanover nor Orange Presbyteries, the two latter not having received timely notice of the recommendation.

The Synod recommend it to those Presbyteries that have been deficient in the above, to proceed in that matter as soon as possible, and to the other Presbyteries to continue in prosecuting the pious design.

The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the College of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth,

report, that they met according to appointment, and disposed of the money in hand last year. And the Synod appoint as a committee to dispose of such money as shall be due October next, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the Rev. Messrs. Tennent, Guild, Spencer, James Caldwell, Halsey, Richard Treat, Israel Reed, and McWhorter, any three of whom to be a quorum, to attend at New Jersey College the third Wednesday of August next.

The committees appointed last Synod to purchase books and distribute them among the poor on the frontiers, report, that they have complied with the order, and disposed of the whole of the sum allowed at New York, and the whole also of the sum allowed at Philadelphia, except one pound seven shillings and eight pence, but as the committee at Philadelphia have not yet received an account of any distribution made by the persons to whose care they have committed them on the frontiers, the Synod direct them to inquire as soon as possible into that matter, and use their best endeavours to have said distribution made, (if not already done,) and procure what information they can of the success attending said distribution, and make report at next meeting of Synod.

Dr. Rodgers has remitted the money ordered for the inhabitants of Saba, as appointed.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery, and that of New Castle, have complied with the order of last Synod respecting the collections for New Jersey College.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 19*th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Together with the Rev. Messrs. James Finley, Joseph Smith, Thomas Smith, Joseph Tate, and Elihu Spencer, who are now come; and also Messrs. Valentine Dushane, and Nathaniel McKinley, elders; their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The committee appointed to dispose of money in the hands of the corporation of the widows' fund brought in their minutes, which were read and approved. And we appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Sproat, McWhorter, James Caldwell, and Montgomery, a committee for the same purpose this year, to meet to-morrow morning, at seven o'clock, at Mr. Sproat's, and as often afterwards as occasion may require.

Donegal Presbytery, and the other members appointed to meet with them, Mr. Forster excepted, have complied with the order of last Synod respecting Mr. Kennedy, and report that they have ordered him to desist from preaching.

Messrs. John Simpson and Caleb Wallace are gone to the southern colonies, agreeable to an order of last Synod.

The Presbytery of New Castle have complied with the order of last Synod with respect to sending supplies to the southern colonies, as far as their circumstances would admit.

It was moved and seconded, and came to be considered, whether a commission of Synod should be appointed and their powers defined; or the practice of appointing a commission discontinued, and after reasoning thereon, the Rev. Messrs. Treat, Dr. Rodgers, McWhorter, Hunter, and John Miller, were appointed a committee to prepare an overture to be laid before the Synod next Monday morning, ascertaining the powers of the commission in case it should be continued.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Together with the Rev. Messrs. John Steel, John Elder, Dr. Witherspoon, James Long, and Jeremiah Halsey, who are now come; their reasons for not coming sooner, sustained; as those of the Rev. Messrs. Steel and Elder, for their absence last year.)

A letter from the Rev. Stephen Johnson, of Lyme, in Connecticut, was laid before the Synod, informing of a sum of money bequeathed by his son, the Rev. Diodati Johnson, to be disposed of by this Synod for the purpose of propagating the gospel in the southern colonies, and requesting that some person might be appointed to receive the same.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Dr. Rodgers to receive the above, and give a proper receipt and discharge for the same, and transmit it when obtained into the hand of the Synodical treasurer as soon as convenient.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Brainerd was brought in and read, informing of the Indian school having been kept up in the same manner it was last year, and of his labours, and prospects of success, amongst the vacancies in those parts; which, being taken into consideration, the Synod allow Mr. Brainerd for his services there, the eighteen pounds interest money in the hands of the trustees of New Jersey College for an Indian mission, and the additional sum of twenty-five pounds, to be paid out of the money in the hand of the Synodical treasurer, which sum the treasurer is directed to pay to Mr. Brainerd or his order.

The Synod agree to print an account of the money collected in consequence of the Synodical order the year before last, together with a list of the members of Synod, and the congregations and vacancies under our care, and in order thereto direct the respective Presbyterial treasurers to furnish the Synodical treasurer with proper lists of their members, and the congregations and vacancies within their bounds.

Dr. Rodgers laid before the Synod a letter from the Synod of North Holland, which was read; and Dr. Rodgers and Mr. McWhorter are appointed a committee to prepare a draught of an answer to the above letter, to be brought in next Monday morning.

The minutes of last General Convention were brought in by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read; and as the next Convention is to meet at Elizabethtown, the third Wednesday of September, at three o'clock, P. M. we appoint the Rev. Messrs. Dr. Francis Alison, Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. John Rodgers, Richard Treat, William Tennent, James Sproat, Jacob Green, Andrew Hunter, Benjamin Chesnutt, Israel Reed, Elihu Spencer, John Miller, Benjamin Hait, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, John Woodhull, Jedidiah Chapman, and George Duffield, to attend there as members of the said convention from this body.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Together with the Rev. John Hoge, who is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.)

The minutes of the committee of overtures were called for, brought in, and read.

Application was made by the Presbytery of New York requesting assistance to supply among the many large and growing vacancies on the northern frontier of that province. In consequence of which the Synod appoint Dr.

Rodgers, and Mr. Caldwell, or Mr. McWhorter, as missionaries, to supply each of them eight Sabbaths among those vacancies, and endeavour as far as their time will admit, to form them into regular congregations. And the Synod order the Presbyteries of New York and New Brunswick to supply the congregations of those gentlemen who go on this mission, in the following manner, viz. the congregation of New York in Dr. Rodgers' absence to be supplied, the third Sabbath in June by Mr. Bay; the fourth, Mr. Roe; the first in July, Mr. McWhorter; the second, Mr. Woodruff; the third, Dr. Witherspoon; the fourth, Mr. Spencer; the fifth, Mr. Hait; the first in August, Mr. Jones; the second, Mr. Richards. Elizabethtown to be supplied in the absence of Mr. Caldwell, or Newark in the absence of Mr. McWhorter, the third Sabbath in June by Mr. Vanarsdalen; the fourth, Mr. Tennent; the first in July, Mr. Schenck; the second, Mr. Reed; the fourth, Mr. Chapman; the fifth, Mr. Azariah Horton; the first in August, Mr. Elmer; the second, Mr. Green.

A reference was brought in from the Presbytery of New York, praying the advice of the Synod, whether the congregation of Jamaica, on Long Island, whose late minister, the Rev. Mr. Mills, belonged to the Presbytery of Suffolk, may be taken under their care, as they formerly were, and had never been dismissed.

The Synod allow that the above congregation be taken under the care of the Presbytery of New York.

A petition from the Jersey settlement on the Mohawk river, about seventy miles above Albany, was brought in and read, praying to be taken under the care of the Synod, and to have some ministers sent among them supported by the money in the hand of the Synod.

A petition was brought in and read from the united congregations of Timber Ridge and Hall's Meeting-house, in Virginia, representing the destitute condition of the church in those parts, and earnestly requesting some supplies to be sent them, and especially by candidates who may be likely to settle in those parts.

A petition from Cathey's settlement, in North Carolina, praying for supplies, was brought in and read, together with which, application was made by the Rev. Mr. David Caldwell in behalf of many large and growing vacancies in the bounds of Orange Presbytery, praying that supplies be sent them from the Synod.

Application was made by the Rev. Messrs. Robert Cooper and James Finley in behalf of the numerous and increasing vacancies on the extensive western frontier of Pennsylvania, praying that supplies may be afforded them by the Synod, and that such as may be sent endeavour to form them into congregations as far as they conveniently can.

A letter was brought in by the Rev. Dr. Rodgers from the Rev. Mr. Henry Patillo, of Orange Presbytery, representing that great numbers of the inhabitants of the counties of Chowan, Perquimons, Pasquotank, and Currituck, in the lower parts of North Carolina, are earnestly desirous of supplies being sent them from this Synod, and praying that a minister may be sent to them with a view to settlement.

A petition was brought in and read from the Bald Eagle settlement up the west branch of Susquehanna, earnestly praying for supplies to be sent to those parts.

Application was made by the Rev. Mr. John Todd in behalf of the numerous vacancies within the bounds of Hanover Presbytery, and praying for supplies from the Synod.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Together with the Rev. Dr. Francis Alison, the Rev. Messrs. John King and James Long, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The order of this afternoon being called for, an overture was brought in by the Rev. Mr. Tate, requesting a review of the act of last year respecting the manner of receiving ministers from Europe, and a consideration of the power by which the Synod makes such acts to restrain Presbyteries from acting according to the best of their judgment "in things that before these acts were allowed to be lawful and not forbidden by the word of God," was taken into consideration, and the Synod agree to review the said act, and after much reasoning on the case, it was carried by a considerable majority to reverse said act.

The Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Spencer, Hunter, Slemmons, Mitchell, Duffield, and Balch, dissent from the above judgment, and request liberty to bring in their reasons and have them entered on record, which is granted.

Dr. Rodgers and the Rev. Messrs. Treat and McWhorter are appointed a committee to prepare an overture of an act or regulation, to be substituted in the place of the act reversed by the vote now passed, to be brought in to-morrow morning.

Mr. David Caldwell and Mr. Carmichael had liberty of absence till Monday.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Together with the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Montgomery and Matthew Wilson, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

A supplication was brought in and read from the congregation of Reedy Creek and Upper Creek meeting-houses, on the heads of the Catawba waters, representing their destitute condition, and requesting a minister to be sent them who may be likely to settle among them.

The committee appointed yesterday to prepare an overture of an act or regulation respecting the admission of ministers and candidates from foreign parts, brought in a draught, which, being read a first and second time, and amended, was unanimously approved, and is as follows, viz:

"Whereas, it is of the highest importance to the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom that the greatest care be observed by church judicatures to maintain orthodoxy in doctrine, and purity in practice, in all their members, this Synod, in addition to the agreement upon this head of the year 1764, and further explained in the year 1765, do most earnestly recommend it to all their Presbyteries to be very strict and careful respecting these matters, especially in examining the certificates and testimonials of ministers or probationers who come from foreign churches; and that they be very cautious about receiving them, unless the authenticity of their certificates and testimonials be supported by private letters, or other credible and sufficient evidence; and in order more effectually to preserve this Synod, our Presbyteries, and congregations from imposition and abuse, every year when any Presbytery may report that they have received any ministers or probationers from foreign churches, that Presbytery shall lay before the Synod the testimonials, and all other certificates upon which they received such ministers or probationers, for the satisfaction of the Synod, before such foreign ministers or probationers shall be enrolled as members of our body;

and if the Synod shall find the said testimonials false or insufficient, the whole proceedings had by the Presbytery in the admission shall be held to be void; and the Presbytery shall not from that time receive or acknowledge him as a member of this body, or in ministerial communion with us. And, on the other hand, whensoever any gentlemen from abroad shall come duly recommended, as above, we will gladly receive them as brethren, and give them every encouragement in our power."

An appeal from a judgment of New Castle Presbytery respecting a call to the Rev. Joseph Smith, was brought in. The consideration of this affair deferred till next Tuesday morning.

A representation from the Rev. Dr. Ezra Stiles and the Rev. Samuel Hopkins, respecting the sending two natives of Africa on a mission to propagate Christianity in their native country, and a request that the Synod would countenance this undertaking by their approbation of it, was brought in and read. The consideration of the above deferred.

The appeal of a certain Joseph Zury from a judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle was brought in and read, as also the minutes of the Presbytery and Session respecting that affair, by which it appears that the said Joseph Zury had been charged with the crime of fornication; in judging of which matter the Presbytery found themselves under some difficulty to determine clearly on the one side or the other; the Synod after duly considering the affair, unanimously agree, that said charge, as circumstanced, ought not to prevent said Zury from sealing ordinances, and do therefore declare him acquitted.

The Synod appoint Mr. Treat, Mr. McWhorter and Mr. Foster a committee to prepare the list for printing which was to have been done by Dr. Witherspoon.

A query was brought in, about Mr. McGill, labouring in the ministry within the bounds of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, especially in one of the congregations under their care, and has assisted one of their members in the administration of the Lord's supper.

The Synod remit this affair to the second Philadelphia Presbytery, and direct them to send one of their members to preach on a Sabbath in that congregation where Mr. McGill has been preaching, as above, and read to them the minute of the Synod last year respecting that gentleman, and warn them not to encourage him among them whilst matters remain in their present situation. And the Synod further order the said Presbytery to be careful that none of their members encourage him in the question of the ministerial office.

Doctor Witherspoon had liberty of absence till Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Spencer till Monday, and Mr. Halsey through the remaining part of the present session.

Adjourned till three o'clock P. M. next Monday. Concluded with prayer.

Monday, May 23d, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. John Thompson, Mr. Montgomery's elder, and Mr. John McCalmont, Mr. McKennan's elder, are now come.

The representation and request relative to sending negro missionaries to Africa, was taken into consideration, in consequence of which the subject of negro slavery came to be considered, and after much reasoning on the matter Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. John Miller, Caldwell, and Montgomery, were appointed a committee to bring in an overture on this subject on Wednesday morning.

The consideration of the overture brought in by Mr. Tate, viz: respecting "The power by which the Synod makes such acts to restrain Presbyteries from

acting to the best of their judgment in things, that before these acts, were allowed to be lawful, and not forbidden by the word of God," is deferred to next Synod.

The call for the overture respecting a commission of Synod, is deferred till Wednesday morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Andrew Bryan, Mr. Reed's elder, and William Walker, Mr. Woodhull's elder, are now come.

David Scott, in his own name, and in the name of the inhabitants of the Great Cove, request the Synod to consider their destitute state, as separated so far from any neighbouring congregation that they cannot there conveniently attend divine worship, and that their number is so small, that they are not able sufficiently to pay ministers that supply them, especially young men who have no congregations, for their trouble; he therefore humbly requests the reverend Synod to allow something out of their fund to such ministers as are sent to supply them, and that orders be given to some of the neighbouring ministers to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper among them some time convenient before winter. The Synod having considered his request, recommend it to the Presbytery of Donegal seasonably to administer the sacrament in the Great Cove, and afford them as many supplies as they conveniently can; and the Synod agree to allow a reasonable compensation to such ministers or probationers as may be sent on these services.

The order of the morning being called for, the appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle respecting a call to the Rev. Joseph Smith, was taken into consideration, and after the parties were heard in part,

Adjourned till three clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Mr. Witherspoon who is now returned.)

Ordered, To proceed in the affair of the appeal entered on in the forenoon; and after the parties were further heard,

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in the appeal entered upon yesterday.

The parties being fully heard and ordered to withdraw, the Synod proceeded to consider the affair, and after reasoning on the case, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Spencer, John Miller, McWhorter, and Patrick Alison, were appointed a committee to converse with the commissioners from Wilmington on both sides of the question, together with Mr. McKennan, and Mr. Smith; and endeavour to accommodate matters in such manner as may be most likely to serve the interest of the church in those parts.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Steel and Mr. Balch, who are gone home without leave; and Mr. McCreary, who being taken sick and obliged to go home, sent the reason of his departure to the Synod, which is sustained.)

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery books of Orange, Donegal, and New York, brought in the books approved except a few remarks.

The remaining minutes of the committee of overtures were called for, brought in and read.

A letter was brought in from the Rev. John William Kahls, respecting the study of the Hebrew language and Divinity, which being taken into consideration, the Synod expressed their sentiments on the subject, and desired the moderator to transmit the same to Mr. Kahls.

The committee appointed in the forenoon on the Wilmington affair, report, that they have used their best endeavours to accomplish the end of their appointment, but have not been so happy as to succeed; wherefore the Synod resumed the consideration of the appeal lying before them, and after reasoning, it was moved, that waving the decision of the merits of the appeal and conduct of the Presbytery, the Synod should resolve upon the whole state of the affair laid before them, that Mr. Smith be allowed to accept of the call put into his hand by the Presbytery, and that the call be described by the terms of the second congregation in Wilmington united with Brandywine, and that he be appointed to preach in Wilmington one half of his time, and the other half in such place as the Brandywine congregation have proposed to provide on the west side of the creek in the country, with this further instruction, that in case the eastern part of Brandywine congregation shall build another house, and request a proportion of his time, he be appointed to divide it among the three, and that in either case care be taken that the day of preaching in Wilmington do not interfere with the day of preaching at Mr. McKennan's church, but that they correspond together so as to promote the common benefit of all as much as may be; and the Synod do earnestly recommend to all the members of that Presbytery to cultivate peace and harmony, and do their utmost to strengthen one another's hands in the work of the Lord.

The above having been several times read was put to the question, agree or not, and was carried by a great majority—agree, wherefore the Synod did and hereby do appoint accordingly;—parties being called in, this was intimated to them.

Dr. Rodgers, and his elder, Mr. Kinley, and also Messrs. John Miller, James Boyd, Alexander Miller, and Patrick Alison, had liberty to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Valentine Dushane, Mr. Thomas Smith's elder, being taken sick, was obliged to go home. Mr. Carmichael having last Friday obtained liberty of absence till Monday, has not since returned.

The committee appointed to prepare an overture on the representation from Dr. Stiles and the Rev. Samuel Hopkins, and also on the subject of negro slavery, brought in a draught, the first part of which being read and amended, was approved and is as follows:

The consideration of Dr. Stiles's and Mr. Hopkins's representation and request resumed. "The Synod is very happy to have an opportunity to express

their readiness to concur with and assist in a mission to the African tribes, and especially where so many circumstances concur as in the present case, to intimate that it is the will of God, and to encourage us to hope for success. We assure the gentlemen aforesaid, we are ready to do all that is proper for us in our station for their encouragement and assistance."

And it is ordered, that the clerk transmit a copy of this minute to Doctor Stiles. But some difficulties attending the discussion of the second part of that overture, the Synod agree to defer the affair to our next meeting.

A member of the committee appointed to prepare an overture respecting a commission of Synod, brought in a draught, which being read and amended, was put to vote and carried by a large majority, and is as follows:

"Whereas, there have arisen doubts in the minds of some members respecting the utility and powers of what is called by us *the commission*, the Synod proceeded to take this matter into consideration, and after due deliberation, in orded to remove any scruples upon this head, and prevent all future difficulties in this matter, do determine that the commission shall continue, and meet whensoever called by the moderator, at the request of the first nine in the roll of the commission, or a major part of the first nine ministers, and when met that it shall be invested with all the powers of Synod to sit by their own adjournments from time to time; and let it also be duly attended to, that there can lie no appeal from the judgment of the commission, as there can be none from the judgment of the Synod; but there may be a review of their proceedings and judgments by the Synod, and whensoever this is done, those who were members of the commission shall be present and assist in forming all such judgments as the Synod may think proper to make upon any such review."

And we do appoint for a commission the ensuing year, Messrs. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, John Todd, David Caldwell, John King, Robert Cooper, Joseph Montgomery, James Finley, William Forster, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, George Duffield, Dr. Francis Alison, Patrick Alison, William Tennent, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, Azariah Horton, Dr. John Rodgers, James Caldwell, David Rose, Wheeler Case, James Sproat, Benjamin Chesnutt, John Simonton, John Brainerd, Israel Reed, Thomas Lewis, with the moderator; and elders, John Thompson of New Castle, Joseph Cowan of Octorara, John McCalla of Philadelphia, Daniel Clark of Greenwich, William McMullen of Philadelphia, William Bresban of Pequea, Andrew Bryan of Drawyers, Anthony Tate of New Town; and twenty-two, with the moderator, shall be a quorum.

Ordered, To proceed in appointing supplies.

Mr. Latta is appointed to supply up the West Branch of Susquehanna five Sabbaths in the months of October and November; and Mr. Samuel Dougal, a probationer, under the care of New Castle Presbytery, seven Sabbaths in July and August.

Mr. John Hanna is appointed to supply eight Sabbaths between this and next fall, in the vacancies beyond the Allegheny mountains.

Mr. Samuel Smith, a probationer, under the care of New Castle Presbytery, is appointed to supply four months between this and next meeting of Synod, on the frontier parts of Pennsylvania, and in Virginia, if his state of health shall admit of it.

Mr. John Debow, a probationer, under the care of New Brunswick Presbytery, and Mr. Samuel McCorkle, a probationer, under the care of New York Presbytery, are appointed to go to the southward as soon as they conveniently can, and supply under the direction of the Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange, each of them one whole year at least.

Mr. Forster is appointed to supply six Sabbaths in the frontier parts of Pennsylvania, in the months of September and October.

And the Synod recommend it to the several Presbyteries to afford what further assistance they can to the Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange, by probationers under their care.

Messrs. Clark and Thomas Smith had leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Blair, formerly in connection with this Synod, being now present, requested to be enrolled as a member, which request was granted, and he accordingly took his seat, and the Synod desire Mr. Blair to join himself to some one of our Presbyteries as soon as he conveniently can.

The Synod taking into their serious consideration the dark and threatening aspect of our public affairs, both civil and religious, as loudly calling for deep humiliation before God, and earnest application to the throne of grace, do agree to observe the third Thursday of June next, as a day of solemn fasting and prayer, to implore the Divine compassion, that it may please God in his great mercy to avert the calamities which, on account of our manifold provocations, we have great reason to fear.

An overture by the Rev. Mr. Matthew Wilson, proposing a method to secure the lasting union and credit of the Presbyterian body, was brought in and read, and taken into consideration, and the Synod recommend it to their members to make themselves well acquainted with the fundamental principles of the Presbyterian constitution.

A paper from Mr. S. Kennedy was brought in, containing a complaint against the conduct of the Presbytery of Donegal, and the members who met with them according to appointment of last Synod. As the Synod have not time at present to enter upon the consideration of this matter, and if they had time, Mr. Kennedy is not prepared with his witnesses for trial, they agree to defer it till next Synod, and order Mr. Kennedy in the mean time to submit to the judgment of the Presbytery, and that he appear then prepared to support his complaint against the said Presbytery, and that the Presbytery be careful to prepare for their own vindication, that this matter may then be fully heard and issued.

A letter from the Associate Presbytery, in Pennsylvania, signed by the Rev. William Marshal, Presbytery clerk, was brought in and read, representing that for reasons which to them appear valid, they are not at present disposed to unite with this Synod, which letter is ordered to be entered in the Appendix.

The Synod finding by their printed accounts that many members have not yet collected, according to the order of Synod, 1772, wherefore they now again order the Presbyteries to require those who have not collected, as appears from the printed lists, that they should collect this year, and bring said collections in by their Presbyterial treasurers at next sessions of Synod.

An address, on a matter apprehended to be of great importance to our general interest, was brought in and read; the consideration of it deferred till our next meeting of Synod.

An overture for resolving this Synod into three Synods was brought in and read; the consideration thereof deferred to next meeting of Synod.

Adjourned to New York, to meet at ten o'clock, on the third Wednesday of next May. Concluded with prayer.

1775.

New York, May 17th, 1775.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the Presbytery of Dutchess county: The Rev. Messrs. Wheeler Case, Samuel Mills, and Ichabod Lewis.

Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Dr. Rodgers, the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Lewis, Alexander McWhorter, Benjamin Hait, Aaron Richards, Benjamin Woodruff, Joseph Treat, James Caldwell, Jedidiah Chapman, Nathan Kerr, John Close, Azel Roe, and Alexander Miller.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, Israel Reed, and Francis Peppard.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Andrew Hunter, and James Boyd.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Smith.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Robert Cooper.

Elders: Messrs. Elisha Beart, Nathaniel Ball, Peter Ryker, Robert Ogden, and Garret Noel.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of Dutchess county: The Rev. Messrs. Elisha Kent, Dunlap, Eliphalet Ball, Chancey Graham, Solomon Mead, Blackleech Burnett, and David Close.

The whole of the Presbytery of Suffolk.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Simon Horton, Azariah Horton, Jacob Green, Timothy Jones, John Moffatt, Abner Brush, Andrew Bay, Hugh Knox, Jonathan Elmer, Amzi Lewis, and Jacob Vanarsdalen.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Messrs. Charles McKnight, Elihu Spencer, Samuel Kennedy, John Guild, Jeremiah Halsey, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, John Rosborough, and William Schenck.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, James Sproat, George Duffield, Alexander Mitchel, Nathaniel Erwin, Daniel McCalla, Benjamin Chesnutt, John Brainerd, Nehemiah Greenman, Enoch Green, Samuel Eakin, William Hollinshead, and James Watt.

The whole of the second Philadelphia Presbytery.

The whole of the Lewestown Presbytery.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, James Finley, William McKennan, John Carmichael, Joseph Montgomery, John Clark, William Foster, Joseph Smith, John McCreary, John Woodhull, Thomas Read, James Anderson, and Thomas Smith.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, John Roan, John Hoge, Joseph Rhea, James Hunt, Amos Thompson, John Slemmons, John Craighead, James Lang, John King, Hezekiah Balch, and Hugh Vance.

Absent, the Presbyteries of Hanover and Orange.

Mr. Robert Smith, moderator for the last year, opened the Synod with a sermon on John xxi. 15, 16, 17.

Mr. Hait was chosen moderator, Messrs. Joseph Treat and Robert Cooper clerks.

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Whitaker, of the Presbytery of Boston, and the Rev. Levi Frisby being present, were invited and sat as correspondents.

The Presbytery of Dutchess county report, that since our sessions in May, 1773, they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Messrs. David Close and Blackleech Burnet.

New York Presbytery report, that since our last they have licensed to preach

the gospel Mr. Ebenezer Bradford; ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Messrs. Mathias Burnet and Joseph Grover; and that they have recalled Mr. Periam's license to preach; and received the Rev. Mr. Vanarsdale from the Presbytery of New Brunswick. Mr. Burnet being present, takes his seat as a member.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that since our last they have licensed to preach the gospel, Mr. Philip Stockton, and received from the Presbytery of Sterling in Scotland, the Rev. Mr. James Gourly.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that since our last they have licensed to preach the gospel, Messrs. Philip Vicars Fithian, Andrew Hunter, Israel Evans, and Robert Keith; ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin and Daniel McCalla.

New Castle Presbytery report, that since our last they have licensed to preach the gospel, Messrs. Ebenezer Brooks and John McMillan; and deposed from the gospel ministry Mr. Sampson Smith.

Donegal Presbytery report, that since our last they have licensed to preach the gospel, Messrs. William Adolphus Linn, John McKnight, and James McConnell; ordained to the work of the gospel ministry Mr. Thomas McPherrin; received as a correspondent member, the Rev. Collin McFarquhar from the Presbytery of Garloch in Scotland, and received the Rev. Hezekiah Balch from the Presbytery of Orange; and that on the twenty-first of May last, the Rev. John Strain was removed by death.

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Tate, of the second Philadelphia Presbytery, has, since our last, been removed by death.

The Presbytery of Suffolk have, since our last, ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. John Davenport, who being present takes his seat as a member.

Messrs. Close, Roe, Kerr, Peppard, Ichabod Lewis, Boyd, Davenport, and Robert Smith, with Messrs. Ogden, and Ball, elders, are appointed a committee of overtures to meet by six o'clock at this place to-morrow morning, and by adjournments afterwards as occasion may require.

Adjourned to meet at nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

18*th day, nine o'clock, A. M., The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Joseph Riggs, Mr. McWhorter's elder, is now come.

Messrs. Robert Smith and Caldwell are appointed a committee to examine the Donegal Presbytery book. As no other Presbytery books are brought, ordered, that each Presbytery bring their books to our next Synod, and particularly inasmuch as the books of Dutchess, Suffolk, and Hanover, have not for some years past been produced, it is ordered that those Presbyteries be punctual in bringing them to our next meeting of Synod.

Messrs. Timothy Jones and Jonathan Elmer are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. McWhorter and Caldwell, are appointed a committee to bring in, as soon as convenient, a draught of a minute respecting the congregations sending elders to our judicatures.

The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hands of the treasurer of the college of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth, report, that they met according to appointment, and disposed of the money in hand last year.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Tennent, Guild, Spencer, Caldwell, Halsey, Richard Treat, Israel Reed, Alexander McWhorter, and Roe, are appointed a committee, any three of whom to be a quorum, to meet at Princeton

the third Wednesday of next August, to dispose of said money for the present year.

Mr. Halsey is now come, his reason for not attending sooner, sustained. John Welch, Mr. Case's elder, is now come.

The committee of Philadelphia for purchasing and distributing books, are not present to make any report agreeable to the order of last Synod.

The Synodical treasurer reports, that he has obtained a bond with sufficient security for the payment of the legacy bequeathed by the Rev. Diodate Johnston of Connecticut.

Doctor Rodgers fulfilled the mission on the frontiers as appointed, his pulpit was supplied as ordered. The Doctor's report concerning said mission deferred till to-morrow.

Neither Mr. Caldwell nor Mr. McWhorter fulfilled the mission appointed them, their reasons sustained.

Doctor Rodgers's report respecting his mission deferred till next *sederunt.*

The Presbytery of New Brunswick inform, that on account of the absence of their stated clerk, they cannot now produce the certificates on which they received Mr. Gourly, agreeable to the order of last Synod respecting such cases.

Ordered, That said certificates be produced at the next Synod.

The Presbytery of Donegal fulfilled the appointment respecting the administration of the Lord's Supper at Great Cove.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the present year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, John Miller, Matthew Wilson, John Todd, David Caldwell, John King, Robert Cooper, Joseph Montgomery, James Finley, William Foster, Andrew Hunter, George Duffield, Dr. Alison, Patrick Alison, William Tennent, Dr. Witherspoon, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, Azariah Horton, Dr. Rodgers, James Caldwell, David Rose, Wheeler Case, James Sproat, Benjamin Chestnutt, John Simonton, John Brainerd, Israel Reed, and Thomas Lewis, with the moderator; and elders, Messrs. Robert Ogden, Garret Noel, Peter Ryker, Elisha Beach, Nathaniel Ball, Joseph Riggs, Maskel Ewing, Gunning Bedford, McMillan, and George Bryan, twenty-two of whom, with the moderator, to be a quorum; and in case of the death of the moderator, the first upon the above list to be moderator, and to call the commission.

Mr. Debow has not fulfilled the mission to the southern colonies; the reasons for the omission were sustained.

Messrs. Samuel Smith and Samuel Dugal have fulfilled their appointments.

Messrs. Latta, John Hannah, and Forster, have not fulfilled their appointments, ordered by the last Synod.

The Synod are not informed whether the Rev. Samuel Blair has become a member of any of our Presbyteries, agreeable to the order of last Synod.

The order of Synod respecting a fast was complied with.

Adjourned to meet at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(With Messrs. Vanarsdale and Irwin, as also Mr. Bayley, Mr. Burnet's elder, who are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.)

Mr. Bay is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained; his elder is John Albertis, who is also present.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Caldwell, Halsey, Smith, Kerr, and Ogden, are appointed a committee to bring in to-morrow in the afternoon, a draught of a pastoral letter.

Ordered, That Mr. Brainerd receive this year the interest of the three hundred pounds in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey College for an Indian mission.

Messrs. Hait, Woodruff, Roe, Elmer, Thomas Lewis, and Chapman, are appointed a committee in behalf of the Synod, to inquire into the design of the aforesaid fund, and to endeavour to settle with the trustees of the said college the day after their public commencement, to what purposes the interest of it ought to be applied, and by whom the objects shall be nominated.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 19th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the last general convention were brought in by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read.

The Synod appoint as delegates for the next convention, Messrs. Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Alison, Dr. Rodgers, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills, David Rose, John Davenport, Joseph Treat, Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Woodruff, John Close, Benjamin Hait, Jeremiah Halsey, Elihu Spencer, Israel Reed, John Brainerd, James Sproat, Nathaniel Irwin, Robert Davison, Joseph Montgomery, and John Woodhull, to meet at Greenfield in Connecticut, the first Wednesday of next September. Mr. Joseph Treat to open the convention with a sermon, and in case of Mr. Treat's absence, Mr. Hait to preach the sermon.

By the committee of overtures was brought in an application from the Presbyterian congregation in Salem, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, under the care of the Rev. Dr. Whitaker, representing that in October last, together with many other valuable buildings, their meeting-house had been consumed by fire; and earnestly soliciting this Synod to commiserate their case, and take such methods for their relief as to them may appear expedient. As also, an earnest address from the Presbytery of Boston to the Synod, in favour of said society.

The Synod, considering the distressed condition of said people, agree in heartily recommending them as an object of charity, hoping all persons of ability will contribute to their relief.

Mr. John Woodhull is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Doctor Rodgers reports, that in his mission on the frontiers of the province of New York, he preached at many different places, met with a very agreeable reception, endeavoured to form the people into religious societies as far as circumstances would admit; that those people very gratefully acknowledged the Synod's care respecting them, and earnestly request the continuance of it.

The Synod considering the present alarming state of public affairs, do unanimously judge it their duty to call all the congregations under their care to solemn fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and for this purpose appoint the last Thursday of June next to be carefully and religiously observed. But as the Continental Congress are now sitting, who may probably appoint a fast for the same purpose, the Synod, from respect to that august body, and for the greater harmony with all other denominations, and for the greater public order, if the Congress shall appoint a day not above four weeks distant from the said last Thursday of June, order that the congregations belonging to this Synod do keep the day appointed by the Congress, in obedience to this resolution; and if they appoint a day more distant, the Synod order both to be observed by all our communion. The Synod also earnestly recommend it to all the congre-

gations under their care to spend the afternoon of the last Thursday in every month in public solemn prayer to God, during the continuance of our present troubles.

The Synod order, that each Presbytery take care to endeavour to obtain collections for pious uses in all those congregations who have not yet contributed agreeably to our last act for that purpose, and be prepared to make report respecting this matter at the next meeting of Synod; and that the clerks serve the absent Presbyteries with copies of this minute.

A reference was brought in by the Presbytery of New York respecting the propriety of ordaining Mr. Ebenezer Bradford to the gospel ministry *sine titulo.* After deliberation and reasoning on this affair the Synod agree to remit it to the Presbytery.

Adjourned to meet at three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Application was made to the Synod by the Presbytery of New Castle for advice respecting the propriety of Mr. Samuel Smith's being ordained by said Presbytery of New Castle, under whose care he is, in consequence of his having accepted a call from a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hanover.

The Synod having heard all the circumstances relative to this case, and deliberated thereon, agree that it is not expedient for the Presbytery of New Castle to ordain Mr. Smith as the matter now stands.

The committee for bringing in the draught of a Pastoral Letter, report that they have not yet completed said draught.

Ordered, That they bring it in to-morrow morning.

A question was brought into Synod by the New Castle Presbytery respecting the expediency of receiving young men on trials for the ministry without their having obtained a college diploma.

The consideration of this question deferred till the next meeting of Synod.

Messrs. Tennent, Thomas Lewis, and Boyd, have leave to go home.

A petition was brought into Synod by the Rev. Hugh McGill, who appeared before the Synod in the year 1773, representing that he is now able to lay before this Synod further light respecting his character, and earnestly requesting to be received as a member.

The Synod having read all the papers produced by Mr. McGill, and heard such verbal testimony as could be obtained respecting him; and also heard Mr. McGill's representation of his own case, proceeded to serious consideration of this matter.

After some time spent in reasoning on the affair, agreed to defer the decision of it till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 20th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The affair of Mr. McGill resumed. The Synod having heard all that could at present be further offered in respect to Mr. McGill, and again deliberated on his case, find that he had been suspended from preaching by the Burgher Associate Presbytery of Monaghan in Ireland, and afterwards deposed by the Burgher Associate Synod of Edinburgh; and do therefore judge, that however

we have credible testimony in favour of his character, both before the accusation was brought against him in his own Presbytery, and since his removal from Ireland, yet we cannot, at present, receive him as a member. But willing to do every thing in our power for his relief, agree in the mean time, to take every possible method to obtain information, both from the Presbytery which suspended, and the Synod which deposed him. And accordingly we appoint Dr. Rodgers to endeavour to obtain all the light he can from the Associate Presbytery of Monaghan, and Dr. Witherspoon to procure such information as he can from the above-mentioned Synod, respecting said Mr. McGill, to be laid before the Synod at their next meeting.

The committee brought in a draught of a Pastoral Letter, which, after a few alterations, was approved, ordered to be printed, and is as follows:

"*A Pastoral Letter, &c.*

"Very dear Brethren—The Synod of New York and Philadelphia being met at a time when public affairs wear so threatening an aspect, and when (unless God in his sovereign Providence speedily prevent it) all the horrors of a civil war throughout this great Continent are to be apprehended, were of opinion, that they could not discharge their duty to the numerous congregations under their care, without addressing them at this important crisis. As the firm belief, and habitual recollection of the power and presence of the living God, ought at all times to possess the minds of real Christians, so in seasons of public calamity, when the Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth, it would be an ignorance or indifference highly criminal not to look up to him with reverence, to implore his mercy by humble and fervent prayer, and, if possible, to prevent his vengeance by unfeigned repentance.

"We do therefore, brethren, beseech you in the most earnest manner, to look beyond the immediate authors either of your sufferings or fears, and to acknowledge the holiness and justice of the Almighty in the present visitation. He is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. Affliction springeth not out of the dust. He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; and, therefore, it becomes every person, family, city, and province, to humble themselves before his throne, to confess their sins, by which they have provoked his indignation, and intreat him to pour out upon all ranks a spirit of repentance and of prayer. Fly also for forgiveness to the atoning blood of the great Redeemer—the blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. Remember and confess not only your sins in general, but those prevalent national offences, which may be justly considered as the procuring causes of public judgments; particularly profaneness and contempt of God, his name, Sabbaths, and sanctuary; pride, luxury, uncleanness, and neglect of family religion and government, with the deplorable ignorance and security which certainly ought to be imputed to this as their principal cause. All these are, among us, highly aggravated by the inestimable privileges which we have hitherto enjoyed without interruption since the first settlement of this country. If, in the present day of distress, we expect that God will hear our supplications, and interpose for our protection or deliverance, let us remember, what he himself requires of us is, that our prayers should be attended with a sincere purpose, and thorough endeavour after personal and family reformation. If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hand towards him, if iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. Job xi. 13, 14.

"The Synod cannot help thinking that this is a proper time for pressing all of every rank, seriously to consider the things that belong to their eternal peace

Hostilities, long feared, have now taken place; the sword has been drawn in one province, and the whole continent, with hardly any exception, seem determined to defend their rights by force of arms. If, at the same time, the British ministry shall continue to enforce their claims by violence, a lasting and bloody contest must be expected. Surely, then, it becomes those who have taken up arms, and profess a willingness to hazard their lives in the cause of liberty, to be prepared for death, which to many must be certain, and to every one is a possible or probable event.

"We have long seen with concern, the circumstances which occasioned, and the gradual increase of this unhappy difference. As ministers of the gospel of peace, we have ardently wished that it could, and often hoped that it would have been more early accommodated. It is well known to you, (otherwise it would be imprudent indeed thus publicly to profess,) that we have not been instrumental in inflaming the minds of the people, or urging them to acts of violence and disorder. Perhaps no instance can be given on so interesting a subject, in which political sentiments have been so long and so fully kept from the pulpit, and even malice itself has not charged us with labouring from the press; but things are now come to such a state, that as we do not wish to conceal our opinions as men and citizens, so the relation we stand in to you seemed to make the present improvement of it to your spiritual benefit, an indispensable duty.

"Suffer us then to lay hold of your present temper of mind, and to exhort, especially the young and vigorous, by assuring them that there is no soldier so undaunted as the pious man, no army so formidable as those who are superior to the fear of death. There is nothing more awful to think of, than that those whose trade is war should be despisers of the name of the Lord of hosts, and that they should expose themselves to the imminent danger of being immediately sent from cursing and cruelty on the earth, to the blaspheming rage and despairing horror of the infernal pit. Let therefore, every one, who from generosity of spirit, or benevolence of heart, offers himself as a champion in his country's cause, be persuaded to reverence the name, and walk in the fear of the Prince of the kings of the earth, and then he may, with the most unshaken firmness, expect the issue either in victory or death.

"Let it not be forgotten, that though for the wise ends of his Providence it may please God, for a season to suffer his people to lie under unmerited oppression, yet in general we may expect, that those who fear and serve him in sincerity and truth, will be favoured with his countenance and strength. It is both the character and the privilege of the children of God, that they call upon him in the day of trouble, and he, who keepeth covenant and truth for ever, has said, that his ears are always open to their cry. We need not mention to you in how many instances the event in battles, and success in war, have turned upon circumstances which were inconsiderable in themselves, as well as out of the power of human prudence to foresee or direct, because we suppose you firmly believe that after all the counsels of men, and the most probable and promising means, the Lord will do that which seemeth him good; nor hath his promise ever failed of its full accomplishment; 'the Lord is with you while ye be with him, and if ye seek him he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him he will forsake you.' 2 Chron. xv. 2.

"After this exhortation, which we thought ourselves called upon to give you at this time, on your great interest, the one thing needful, we shall take the liberty to offer a few advices to the societies under our charge, as to their public and general conduct; and,

"First. In carrying on this important struggle, let every opportunity be taken to express your attachment and respect to our sovereign King George, and to the revolution principles by which his august family was seated on the

British throne. We recommend, indeed, not only allegiance to him from duty and principle, as the first magistrate of the empire, but esteem and reverence for the person of the prince, who has merited well of his subjects on many accounts, and who has probably been misled into the late and present measures by those about him; neither have we any doubt that they themselves have been in a great degree deceived by false information from interested persons residing in America. It gives us the greatest pleasure to say, from our own certain knowledge of all belonging to our communion, and from the best means of information, of the far greatest part of all denominations in this country, that the present opposition to the measures of administration does not in the least arise from disaffection to the king, or a desire of separation from the parent state. We are happy in being able with truth to affirm, that no part of America would either have approved or permitted such insults as have been offered to the sovereign in Great Britain. We exhort you, therefore, to continue in the same disposition, and not to suffer oppression, or injury itself, easily to provoke you to any thing which may seem to betray contrary sentiments: let it ever appear, that you only desire the preservation and security of those rights which belong to you as freemen and Britons, and that reconciliation upon these terms is your most ardent desire.

"Secondly. Be careful to maintain the union which at present subsists through all the colonies; nothing can be more manifest than that the success of every measure depends on its being inviolably preserved, and therefore, we hope that you will leave nothing undone which can promote that end. In particular, as the Continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia, consists of delegates chosen in the most free and unbiassed manner, by the body of the people, let them not only be treated with respect, and encouraged in their difficult service —not only let your prayers be offered up to God for his direction in their proceedings—but adhere firmly to their resolutions; and let it be seen that they are able to bring out the whole strength of this vast country to carry them into execution. We would also advise for the same purpose, that a spirit of candour, charity, and mutual esteem, be preserved and promoted towards those of different religious denominations. Persons of probity and principle of every profession, should be united together as servants of the same master, and the experience of our happy concord hitherto in a state of liberty should engage all to unite in support of the common interest; for there is no example in history, in which civil liberty was destroyed, and the rights of conscience preserved entire.

"Thirdly. We do earnestly exhort and beseech the societies under our care to be strict and vigilant in their private government, and to watch over the morals of their several members. It is with the utmost pleasure we remind you, that the last Continental Congress determined to discourage luxury in living, public diversions, and gaming of all kinds, which have so fatal an influence on the morals of the people. If it is undeniable that universal profligacy makes a nation ripe for Divine judgments, and is the natural means of bringing them to ruin, reformation of manners is of the utmost necessity in our present distress. At the same time, as it has been observed by many eminent writers, that the censorial power, which had for its object the manners of the public in the ancient free States, was absolutely necessary to their continuance, we cannot help being of opinion that the only thing which we have now to supply the place of this is, the religious discipline of the several sects with respect to their own members; so that the denomination or profession which shall take the most effectual care of the instruction of its members, and maintain its discipline in the fullest vigour, will do the most essential service to the whole body. For the very same reason, the greatest service which magistrates, or persons in authority, can do, with respect to the religion or morals of the

people, is to defend and secure the rights of conscience in the most equal and impartial manner.

"Fourthly. We cannot but recommend, and urge in the warmest manner, a regard to order and the public peace; and as in many places, during the confusions that prevail, legal proceedings have become difficult, it is hoped that all persons will conscientiously pay their just debts, and to the utmost of their power serve one another, so that the evils inseparable from a civil war may not be augmented by wantonness and irregularity.

"Fifthly. We think it of importance, at this time, to recommend to all of every rank, but especially to those who may be called to action, a spirit of humanity and mercy. Every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood. It is impossible to appeal to the sword without being exposed to many scenes of cruelty and slaughter; but it is often observed, that civil wars are carried on with a rancour and spirit of revenge much greater than those between independent States. The injuries received, or supposed, in civil wars, wound more deeply than those of foreign enemies, it is therefore the more necessary to guard against this abuse, and recommend that meekness and gentleness of spirit, which is the noblest attendant on true valour. That man will fight most bravely, who never fights till it is necessary, and who ceases to fight as soon as the necessity is over.

"Lastly. We would recommend to all the societies under our care, not to content themselves with attending devoutly on general fasts, but to continue habitually in the exercise of prayer, and to have frequent occasional voluntary meetings for solemn intercession with God on the important trial. Those who are immediately exposed to danger need your sympathy; and we learn from the Scriptures, that fervency and importunity are the very characters of that prayer of the righteous man that availeth much.

"We conclude with our most earnest prayer, that the God of heaven may bless you in your temporal and spiritual concerns, and that the present unnatural dispute may be speedily terminated by an equitable and lasting settlement on constitutional principles.

"Signed in the name, presence, and by appointment of the Synod.

"BENJAMIN HAIT, Moderator.

"*New York, May 22d*, 1775."

N. B. The stated clerk is to insert the pastoral letter from the printed copy. The Synod agree that five hundred copies of the said pastoral letter be printed; and order the Synodical treasurer to pay the expenses of printing, which is to be by the Synod refunded at their next meeting.

Mr. Halsey dissents from that paragraph of said letter which contains the declarations of allegiance.

Adjourned to meet at three o'clock, P. M. next Monday. Concluded with prayer.

Monday, May 22, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to meet with the corporation of the widows' fund, read the report of their conduct in that matter, which is approved.

The Synod appoint as a committee for the same purpose, the Rev. Messrs. Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Richards, McWhorter, and Caldwell, to meet to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

Mr. Samuel Kennedy, a candidate from Ireland, who appeared before the Synod in the years 1772, 1773, and last year, again appeared and offered a paper of complaints against the judicature, which, agreeable to order of Synod,

had sat on his trial in June, 1773, and praying the Synod to give him a hearing.

The Synod finding that said Mr. Kennedy had obeyed their last year's order, agreed to hear him.

Mr. Kennedy having been heard at great length against said judicature, and Mr. Cooper having, as far as time would admit, in the name of the Presbytery, replied to Mr. Kennedy's charges, the Synod agreed to defer the further hearing of this affair till next *sederunt.*

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 23. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Proceeded to hear Mr. Kennedy's complaint against the judicature as mentioned yesterday. Both parties were fully heard, and the Synod unanimously agreed that Mr. Kennedy had not supported his complaint, and we do therefore dismiss it as frivolous and groundless.

Mr. John Woodhull requested leave of absence, which was granted.

Adjourned till three clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Sacket, a member of New York Presbytery, requests to be disannexed from the Presbytery to which he now belongs, and restored to the Presbytery of Dutchess county. His request is granted, and he is accordingly to be received and enrolled as a member of the said Presbytery.

The Synod proceeded to consider the business of supplies. The Synod order the Synodical treasurer to pay to Mr. Irwin nine pounds nine shillings and three pence, on account of his mission on the western frontiers of Pennsylvania and Virginia; to Mr. Jones for supplying, one pound five shillings and eight pence; to Mr. Richards for ditto, three pounds eleven shillings; to Mr. Hait for ditto, two pounds two shillings; to Mr. Elmer for ditto, seventeen shillings; to Mr. Kerr for ditto, one pound six shillings.

Mr. Ebenezer Brooks is appointed to spend five months in supplying amongst the vacancies in the colony of Virginia, before the next meeting of Synod, under the care of the Hanover Presbytery.

Mr. Debow to supply nine months amongst the Carolina vacancies before the next meeting of Synod, under the care of the Presbytery of Orange.

Mr. Keith, Mr. Hunter, jun'r., and Mr. Fithian, are appointed each of them to supply three months under the care of the Presbytery of Donegal, and each of them three months under the care of the Presbytery of Hanover, before our next meeting; and also to spend what time they can in supplying under the care of the Presbytery of Orange.

Ordered, That Mr. Sproat, the stated clerk, furnish each of the above mentioned gentlemen with proper certificates for their mission.

A supplication from the Presbyterian Congregation in Albany, praying for supplies, and that some members of the Synod may be sent to visit the country to the northward of the city, and that their congregation may be taken from under the care of the Presbytery of Dutchess and put under the care of the Presbytery of New York, was brought in and read; the said congregation, agreeable to their request, are put under the care of the Presbytery of New York.

Mr. Ichabod Lewis is appointed to spend six Sabbaths in supplying in Albany, Charlotte, and Tryon counties, in the province of New York, to set out

on this mission about the middle of June next; Mr. Burnet to supply his pulpit the fourth Sabbath in June at the White Plains, Mr. Samuel Sacket the first Sabbath of July at the White Plains, Mr. Mead the second Sabbath of July at the White Plains, Dr. Rodgers the third Sabbath of July at New Rochelle, Mr. Mills the fourth Sabbath of July at the White Plains, Mr. Barret the last Sabbath of July at the White Plains.

Mr. Miller is appointed to supply every fifth Sabbath until our next meeting, at his discretion, in the vacancies in the neighbourhood of Schenectady.

Mr. Kerr is appointed to set out about the middle of September on a mission in the above mentioned counties, and spend six Sabbaths in supplying in those parts.

Mr. John Close to supply Mr. Kerr's pulpit the last Sabbath of September; Mr. Amzi Lewis the first Sabbath of October, Mr. Moffat the second, Mr. David Close the third, Mr. Case the fourth, and Mr. Grover the fifth.

Adjourned to meet at the first Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, the third Wednesday of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1776.

Philadelphia, May 22d, 1776, *ten o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment at the first Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Present: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Benjamin Hait and Jedidiah Chapman.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. William Zanchy.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Richard Treat, James Sproat, George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, William Hollingshead, and Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Alison and Dr. Ewing.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Robert Smith, William Forster, John Woodhull, James Wilson, and James Anderson.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. John Craighead and Robert Cooper.

Elders present: Messrs. Thomas Bourne, Benjamin Snodgrass, and William Davidson.

Absent: Of the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Aaron Richards, Roe, Jones, Elmer, Greer, Vanarsdale, Woodruff, and Treat.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. McKnight, Smith, Guild, Reed, Kennedy, Peppard, Hannah, and Lyon.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Greenman, Brainerd, Green, McCalla.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Steel and Simonton.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Clark, Montgomery, and Read.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Thompson, Rhea, Hogg, Hunt, Amos Thompson, Long, King, Vance, Black, Dougal, and McFerran.

The whole Presbyteries of Lewestown, Hanover, Orange, Dutchess, and Suffolk.

Mr. Benjamin Hait, moderator for the last year, opened the Synod with a sermon from 1 Timothy i. 12.

The Continental Congress having appointed a general fast to be kept on the 17th of this instant, several members from different Presbyteries applied

to the moderator, requesting him to give public notice for the postponing the meeting of Synod until the fourth Wednesday of this month, in order that the ministers might attend with their congregations on said fast day, with which the moderator complied; and accordingly the Synod have now convened, and however, the Synod judge and hereby declare, that the Synodical moderator has not authority, either with or without the concurrence of particular members, to alter the time of meeting to which the Synod stands adjourned, yet in the present extraordinary case they approve of what the moderator has done.

The time being now elapsed, and few members being present, the choice of a moderator and clerks for the ensuing sessions, is deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. James Finley is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained; his elder is Mr. Amos Alexander.

The Rev. Messrs. Elder, Rosborough, Latta, and Mitchell, are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Synod proceeded to choose a moderator and clerks, accordingly Mr. Cooper was chosen moderator, and Mr. Forster and Mr. Chapman clerks.

Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Carmichael are now come, their reasons for not coming sooner, sustained. Mr. Samuel Holliday, Mr. Carmichael's elder, and Mr. John Whitehill, Mr. Robert Smith's elder, are now come.

Those of the members now present, who did not attend at the last meeting of Synod, gave reasons for their non-attendance, which are sustained.

Mr. Rosborough's elder, Mr. John Walker, is now come.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that since our last they have ordained Mr. Diboa to the work of the gospel ministry, who being present took his seat; and that they have licensed Messrs. John Worford and Hugh White.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that the Rev. Messrs. Andrew Hunter and Benjamin Chesnutt were removed by death; Mr. Chesnutt the twenty-first day of July, and Mr. Hunter the twenty-eighth day of July, 1775; and have ordained Mr. Israel Evans and Mr. William Lynn to qualify them to act as chaplains in the army, to which they had been appointed; and have licensed Mr. James Greer since our last; Mr. Lynn being present took his seat.

Donegal Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. John Roan was removed by death the second day of last October; and have ordained Mr. John Black and Samuel Dougal to the work of the gospel ministry.

They also report that they have received the Rev. Mr. McFarquhar from Scotland, and laid [the credentials upon which they received him before the Synod, with which the Synod being satisfied, Mr. McFarquhar being present, took his seat.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have dismissed Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, to join Hanover Presbytery, and Mr. Ebenezer Brooks, to join Lewestown Presbytery, and Mr. John McMillan, to Donegal Presbytery.

Mr. Tennent is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained; his elder, Peter Firmin, is also come.

Mr. Halsey is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained.

Messrs. Benjamin Hait, Schanck, Mitchell, Finley, Woodhull, McFarquhar, and Craighead, with elders, Messrs. William Davidson, John Whitehill, and John Walker, are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet in this

place to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and by adjournments from time to time.

The minutes of the last Convention were brought in and read.

The Synod considering the distracted situation of our public affairs, judge that an attendance on the Convention by any of their members the ensuing appointment will be impracticable, and order Dr. Rodgers to inform the General Association as early as possible thereof, together with their design of sending members to attend at the place appointed, on the third Wednesday of September, 1777.

The Synod appoint Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Witherspoon, and Messrs. William Tennent, John Guild, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Richard Treat, Israel Read, Alexander McWhorter, and Azel Roe, to be a committee, any three of whom to be a quorum, to meet at Princeton, the third Wednesday in August, to dispose of the sum appropriated to the education of pious youth, for the present year; and also to inquire into the state of the three hundred pounds hitherto appropriated to the Indian mission, and report to the Synod at their next meeting.

The Synod agree to allow Mr. Brainerd the interest of the three hundred pounds in the hands of the College of New Jersey for the Indian mission, the ensuing year.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries present, give in a list of their absent members to-morrow morning.

Mr. Patrick Alison, and Mr. McPherrin, are appointed a committee to examine the New York Presbytery book.

Dr. Witherspoon requested leave to go home, which request is granted.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Dr. Witherspoon, who had leave of absence.)

The Synod have no account whether Mr. Brooks fulfilled his appointment of the last year.

Messrs. Debow, Keith, Hunter, Fithian, Ichabod Lewis, Nathan Kerr, and Alexander Miller, fulfilled their missions as appointed at our last.

Ordered, That the minutes of the committee of overtures be brought in and read.

The Synod proceeded to take in supplications for supplies.

A supplication of the Presbyterian Society of Buffalo, Warrior's Run, and Penn's Valley, was brought in and read.

Application was made by Mr. Debow, in behalf of North Carolina, for supplies.

Application was made by the moderator, in behalf of the vacancies in the western parts of this province.

The Synod made inquiry of their missionaries, Messrs. Keith and Hunter, respecting the support they received during their mission, and find that Mr. Keith received for the term of one year, the sum of forty-two pounds; Mr. Hunter, for eight months, the sum of nineteen pounds ten shillings. The Synod not being able now to ascertain the state of their fund for the supply of missionaries, leave the further consideration of this matter until the afternoon.

The Synod proceeded to appoint supplies.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery applied to the Synod for their concurrence to ordain Mr. Keith, a licensed candidate under their care, *sine titulo*, in case of his going out to supply at Canetuck, to which the Synod agreed, if they find their way clear to proceed to his ordination.

The Synod received the Rev. Mr. Hugh McGill, as a member of the second Presbytery of Philadelphia.

The Synod appoint Mr. McGill to supply in the western parts of this province for the space of eight months, between this time and our next meeting, under the direction of the Donegal Presbytery.

The Synod also appoint Mr. Hugh White, a candidate under the care of New Brunswick Presbytery, to supply four months within the bounds of Donegal Presbytery, at their direction, and the remaining part of his time, until our next, in the southern provinces.

The Synod also appoint Mr. Carmichael to supply the two months of October and November, in the northern and western parts of this province.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of New Castle supply his place four Sabbaths during his absence.

Whereas the Synod cannot, at this time, make sufficient provision for the vacancies under their care, they recommend it to the first Philadelphia Presbytery, and Presbytery of New Castle, as they have a number of candidates under their care, to afford what supplies they can until our next, to the western and southern parts.

Ordered, That the missionaries be furnished with proper testimonials by the stated Synodical clerk.

The Presbytery of New Castle applied to the Synod for their concurrence in case their way should appear clear, to ordain Mr. Power, a licensed candidate under their care, as he purposes to remove to the western parts of this province. The Synod agree to grant the request.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the present year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, John Miller, Matthew Wilson, John King, Joseph Montgomery, David Caldwell, John Todd, James Finley, William Forster, George Duffield, Dr. Alison, Patrick Alison, William Tennent, Dr. Witherspoon, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, Azariah Horton, Dr. Rodgers, James Caldwell, David Roe, Wheeler Case, James Sproat, John Simonton, John Brainerd, Israel Read, Dr. Ewing, and Thomas Lewis, with the moderator; and elders, Messrs. Thomas Bourne, John Whitehill, Amos Alexander, Benjamin Snodgrass, John Walker, James Ewing, Samuel Holliday, William Davidson, and Anthony Tate, twenty of whom shall be a quorum, and in case of the death of the moderator, the first on the above list shall be moderator, and shall call the commission if necessary.

Adjourned till three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Alexander Miller informed the Synod that he had supplied for eight Sabbaths in the neighbourhood of Schenectady, for which he received the sum of two pounds nine shillings and four pence, and further proposes, if any moderate compensation should be allowed from the Synod's fund, he would still continue to spend a fourth part of his time in those places.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Halsey and Latta a committee, to adjust and lay before them, against to-morrow morning, the sums to be allowed the several missionaries appointed at our last.

An appeal was brought in by Mr. Bay, from a judgment of the Presbytery of New York, of June the 20th, 1775, by which the pastoral relation between him and his congregation was dissolved, and was read.

After having fully heard all parties, the Synod defer the consideration thereof till to-morrow.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod resumed the consideration of Mr. Bay's affair, and after some time spent thereon, agreed to defer the final determination of it till next *sederunt.*

Messrs. Spencer, Carmichael, and Forster, have leave of absence.

Adjourned till ten o'clock, Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 27th, ten o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The New Castle Presbytery applied for the opinion of Synod concerning a marriage, the circumstances whereof were particularly related, whether it was to be held incestuous or not, and the Synod resolved that it was not incestuous.

The Synod renewed the consideration of Mr. Bay's appeal, and after mature deliberation, confirmed that part of the Presbytery's judgment which dissolves the union between Mr. Bay and his congregation; and with respect to the latter part of said judgment, the Synod are of opinion that it would have been proper to have recommended to the parties, to leave the settlement of all matters respecting the glebe and its appurtenances, to arbitrators mutually chosen; and they further advise, that if any disagreement should hereafter arise between Mr. Bay and the congregation of Newtown, respecting said glebe and appurtenances, that they decide them in the same way.

Adjourned till five o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Five o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

But as a sufficient number to do business did not attend, it was thought proper to adjourn till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

May 28th, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The decision of the Synod on Mr. Bay's appeal was read, both parties being present.

Dr. Rodgers in the behalf of the Presbytery of New York, requested an attested copy of the above judgment, which is granted, and the clerk is ordered to give it.

Mr. Bay, in a solemn manner, declared his declining the jurisdiction of this Synod for the future, and against having any further connection with it.

The reference from the Presbytery of New Castle, respecting the propriety of admitting young men upon trials for the ministry without their having obtained a college diploma, was taken into consideration, in answer to which the Synod observe, that the superior advantages attending an education in public seminaries, render it highly expedient to encourage the young men to finish their academical studies in such institutions as means of securing a learned ministry; and Presbyteries are ordered to promote this end by warmly recommending it to those who have the ministry in view. Yet as Presbyteries are the proper judges to determine concerning the literary and other requisite qualifications for the ministerial office, it is not intended to preclude from admission to trial, those who have not had the opportunity of obtaining public testimonials or degrees from public seminaries.

The report of the committee appointed last year to meet with the corporation of the widows' fund, and dispose of the money in their hands, not yet brought in. The Synod appoint for the same purpose this year, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Treat, Dr. Rodgers, Halsey, Patrick Alison, and Duffield, to meet with the corporation as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to receive an account of the sums received by the missionaries appointed by the Synod, and consider what additional sums may be allowed to any of them, recommend that Messrs. Hunter and Fithian be allowed each of them ten pounds in addition to what they received in their mission, which the Synod approve of, and direct to the stated clerk to furnish them, when required, with an order on the Synodical treasurer for that sum.

A letter from the Presbytery of Orange was brought in and read, informing that they have since last Synod licensed Messrs. Robert Archibald, Thomas Harris McCalla, and James Hall, to preach the gospel, and request the Synod to send as many supplies as they can to the relief of the numerous vacancies in those parts.

The committee formerly appointed at Philadelphia for the purpose of buying and distributing among the frontier inhabitants, books of practical religion, report that they have executed the trust committed to them.

The committee appointed to review the New York Presbytery book make no report.

The committee appointed to review the first Philadelphia and Donegal Presbytery books, brought in those books approved, except a few omissions in transcribing.

Adjourned to the third Wednesday of next May, to meet at ten o'clock, A. M. at the Second Presbyterian church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

1777.

Philadelphia, May 21*st*, 1777.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met at the Second Presbyterian church according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Present: From the Presbytery of New York: Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Messrs. James Caldwell, Jacob Vanarsdalen.

From the Presbytery of New Brunswick: Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Mr. Elihu Spencer.

From the first Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Dr. Richard Treat, Messrs. James Sproat, John Brainerd, Alexander Mitchell, Nathaniel Irwin, Daniel McCalla.

From the second Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Dr. Francis Alison, Dr. John Ewing, Mr. Robert McMordie.

From the Presbytery of New Castle: Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, Joseph Montgomery, John Carmichael, James Anderson, Thomas Read, Joseph Smith, Robert Davidson.

From the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Cooper, Collin McFarquhar, James Martin.

From the Presbytery of Lewestown: Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Brooks.

From the Presbytery of Hanover: Rev. Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of New York: Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Knox, Messrs. Jones, Green, Horton, Hait, Woodruff, Thomas Lewis, Treat, Elmer, Richards, Brush, Roe, Chapman, Kerr, Close, Woodhull, Miller, Burnet, Grover, Bradford, Amzi Lewis, and Moffat.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: Rev. Messrs. McKnight, Thomas

Smith, Schenck, Guild, Israel Reed, Kennedy, Halsey, Peppard, Prudden, Lyon, Debow, Worford, and Gurley.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Greenman, Duffield, Boyd, Watt, Hollingshead, Keith, and Evans.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. John Steel, Elder, Simonton, Patrick Alison, and McGill.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: Rev. Messrs. McDowell, Finley, McKennan, Latta, Clark, Forster, McCreary, John Woodhull, James Wilson, and Joseph Smith.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, Hunt, Hogg, Amos Thompson, Rhea, Slemmons, Craighead, King, Lang, Vance, McFerran, Black, Dougal, Linn, McMillan, McKnight.

The whole Presbyteries of Suffolk, Hanover (except the Rev. Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith), Orange, and Dutchess.

The whole Presbytery of Lewes, except Mr. Brooks, *ut supra.*

Elders present: The Hon. Peartree Smith, Esq., Messrs. James Thomson, William Faulconer, William Ramsey.

Mr. Robert Cooper, moderator for the last year, opened the Synod with a sermon from John v. 35.

Mr. John Carmichael was chosen moderator, and Dr. Ewing and Mr. McCalla, clerks.

First Philadelphia Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. Enoch Green is removed by death since our last, likewise Mr. Philip Fithian, a licensed candidate; and that they have ordained Mr. Robert Keith, to qualify him to act as a chaplain in the army, to which he had been appointed.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have ordained Mr. James Power to the work of the gospel ministry; and licensed Messrs. William Smith, James Armstrong, and George Lucky, to preach the gospel.

Donegal Presbytery report, that they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Messrs. John McMillan and John McKnight; and licensed to preach, Messrs. David Bard, Samuel Waugh, and John Linn.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. William Tennent departed this life March 8th, 1777; and that the Rev. Mr. John Rosborough was barbarously murdered by the enemy at Trenton on January second; they further report, that they have ordained to the work of the sacred ministry, Mr. John Worford; and licensed to preach the gospel, Mr. John Zelyne.

New York Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. Azariah Horton was removed by death since our last Synod.

Messrs. Robert Smith, Spencer, McFarquhar, with Mr. James Thomson, elder, are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet in this place to-morrow at eight o'clock, A. M., and by adjournments afterward, as occasion may require.

The Synod are of opinion that they cannot send any members to meet the general convention on the third Wednesday of September next, and order Mr. Sproat to give notice thereof to the General Association of Connecticut, and that the Synod will cheerfully appoint members to attend said convention whenever the situation of public affairs will admit of it.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the present year, the Rev. Dr. Richard Treat, Messrs. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, Dr. John Ewing, Joseph Montgomery, David Caldwell, John Todd, James Finley, William Foster, George Duffield, Dr. Francis Alison, Patrick Alison, Dr. John Witherspoon, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Dr. John Rodgers, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Wheeler Case, James Sproat, John Simonton, John Brainerd, Israel Reed, and Thomas Lewis, with the moderator; and elders, James Thompson and William Faulconer, thirteen of whom shall be a quorum;

and in case of the death of the moderator, the first on the above list shall be moderator, and shall call the commission, if necessary.

Ordered, That the Presbytery of New Castle bring their minutes respecting the case of a marriage referred by them to the last session of Synod, and entered on the Synod's minutes, page 475, at the next meeting of Synod, that they may be enabled to explain or correct the decision then given by them.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Together with the Rev. Messrs. John Brainerd, Joseph Smith, and Alexander Mitchel, whose reasons for not attending at the opening of Synod, are sustained.)

The Rev. Messrs. Dr. McWhorter, Nathaniel Irwin, James Caldwell, and Robert Davidson, are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, deemed sufficient. Mr. Irwin's elder, Mr. William Ramsay; Mr. Caldwell's elder, the Hon. Peartree Smith, Esquire.

The Rev. Mr. James Martin, a member of the Associate Presbytery of Pennsylvania, appeared before us, and signified his desire to converse with the Synod, with a view to his being received as a member of our body; and the Synod having conversed with him, and heard at considerable length his sentiments on the doctrines of the gospel, and terms of Christian and ministerial communion, and having had sufficient testimonials of his moral character, and his good standing in the ministry, in the church of which he has been a member, do unanimously agree to receive him as a member of this body, and appoint him a member of the Presbytery of Donegal.

Dr. McWhorter, Messrs. Montgomery, Spencer, James Caldwell, and Thomas Read, three of whom to be a quorum, are appointed the Synod's committee, to meet the corporation for the widows' fund, to dispose of the money in the hands of said corporation for charitable uses, said committee to meet to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, at this place.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Eodem die, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod taking into consideration the low and declining state of religion among us, and the abounding of iniquity, for which an holy and jealous God yet continues to visit our country with his righteous judgments, appoint the second Thursday of June, to be observed by the churches under their care, as a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And the Synod earnestly recommend it to them, to improve a part of the last Thursday in every month for public or social prayer, as their circumstances may allow.

A petition from the second congregation of Wilmington, in conjunction with Brandywine congregation, was brought before the Synod through the hands of the committee of overtures, requesting the Synod to review a judgment of theirs in the year 1774, respecting the said second congregation. But as the parties are not present the Synod judge that they cannot, at present, enter into the consideration of it, but order it to be laid before the Presbytery of New Castle, who are desired by this Synod to notify the parties to attend, and to issue the whole affair, any thing in the minute of the Synod to the contrary notwithstanding.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod appoint the interest of three hundred pounds in the hands of the corporation of the College of New Jersey, for an Indian mission, to be given to Mr. Brainerd for his last year's services.

The Synod do agree to take the three hundred pounds appointed for an Indian mission, out of the hands of the corporation of the College of New Jersey, and put it into the hands of Dr. Ewing as their treasurer, who is to put it into the continental loan office, and manage the same.

Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith is now come, and his reasons for not attending sooner are sustained.

A petition from the congregation of Deep Run, in Bucks county, requesting that they may be set off from the second Presbytery, and put under the care of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, was brought before the Synod through the hands of the committee of overtures, and read. The Synod having conversed upon it, do grant the prayer of the said petition, and the first Philadelphia Presbytery is ordered to take the care of that congregation for the future.

By the committee of overtures, a supplication from the congregation of Allentown, in the forks of Delaware, requesting that they may be set off from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and put under the care of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, to whom they formerly belonged, was brought in and read. The Presbytery of New Brunswick freely concurring, the Synod grant the supplicants' request, and the first Philadelphia Presbytery is ordered to take said congregation under their care.

A supplication from a society of Highland Scots, at Southerland, was brought in by the committee of overtures, and read, requesting that the Synod would supply them with books, and appoint Mr. McFarquhar to preach and administer gospel ordinances amongst them. This Synod taking their request into consideration, do order a collection of books to be made throughout their Presbyteries for those people, and appoint Mr. McFarquhar to supply them some time, and administer gospel ordinances as he sees proper; and also to supply the adjacent vacant congregations, in Northumberland, four Sabbaths; and they order the Presbytery of Donegal to supply Mr. McFarquhar's pulpit in the mean time.

Dr. Witherspoon reports that there is a balance of £58 6*s.* 9½*d.*, in his hands, due to the Synod.

Mr. Ebenezer Brooks is now come, and his reasons for non-attendance sooner, are sustained.

Adjourned to meet at Philadelphia the third Wednesday in May next, at ten o'clock, A. M., at the First Presbyterian Church. Concluded with prayer.

1778.

Bedminster, May 20th, 1778.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met at Bedminster, in Somerset county, New Jersey, in consequence of an advertisement in the newspapers by the moderator, agreeably to the advice of a number of the members, it not being practicable to meet in Philadelphia according to the adjournment of last year, as that city is now in the possession of the enemy. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, and Jacob Vanarsdalen.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, Samuel Kennedy, Francis Peppard, and Jeremiah Halsey.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. James Boyd.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. John Carmichael.

Elders: Messrs. John Adams, Philip Condit, and William Annan.

Absent: Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Dr. John Rodgers, Dr. Hugh Knox, Joseph Treat, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Benjamin Hait, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Woodruff, Aaron Richards, Jacob Green, Jedidiah Chapman, Joseph Grover, Simon Horton, William Woodhull, Nathan Kerr, —— Lewis, John Moffat, Andrew King, John Close, Abner Brush, Mathias Burnet, Alexander Miller, and Ebenezer Bradford.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, and the Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Thomas Smith, William Schenck, John Hanna, John Warford, and James Lyon.

Of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Dr. Richard Treat, and the Rev. Messrs. James Sproat, John Brainerd, Nehemiah Greenman, James Watt, William Hollingshead, George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, Nathaniel Irvine, Daniel McCalla, Robert Keith, and Israel Evans.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, Joseph Smith, Thomas Smith, William Foster, John Woodhull, James Latta, John Clark, John McCreary, William McKennan, James Finley, James Wilson, Joseph Montgomery, Thomas Reed, and James Anderson.

And the whole of the Presbyteries of Dutchess, Suffolk, the second Philadelphia, Lewistown, Donegal, Hanover, and Orange.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. John Carmichael, moderator last year, by a sermon on John iii. 30, first clause.

The Rev. Mr. Jones was chosen moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Halsey clerk.

Neither the Synod book nor the minutes of last year being present, the Synod agreed to proceed on such business as may now come before them.

The Presbytery of New York report, that the Rev. Thomas Lewis is deceased since our last; and that they have ordained to the work of the ministry, the Rev. Mr. Thaddeus Dod, *sine titulo*, in consequence of liberty obtained from the Synod for that purpose.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. George Luckie to preach the gospel, and ordained the Rev. Mr. James Armstrong to the work of the ministry, *sine titulo*. As the New Castle Presbytery book is not present, the consideration of the propriety of Mr. Armstrong's ordination is deferred till next Synod.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. Charles McKnight departed this life last January; and that they have licensed Mr. George Faitout to preach the gospel.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that they have licensed Mr. Hugh Montgomery Brackenridge to preach the gospel.

The reasons assigned by Messrs. Jones, Read, and Halsey, for their absence from last Synod, and by Messrs. Kennedy and Peppard for their absence from Synod for several years, were sustained.

As none of the Presbytery books, except that of New Brunswick, are present, the examination of that book is deferred till next Synod.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Van Arsdalen, Peppard, Boyd, and Carmichael, with Messrs. Adams and Annan, a committee of bills and overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, nine, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The Synod appoint as a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Dr. McWhorter, the Rev. Messrs. James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, Jeremiah Halsey, Dr. Richard Treat, James Sproat, James Boyd, Dr. Alison, Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, William Forster, John Carmichael, Robert Cowper, John Craighead, and Thomas McFerrin, with the moderator; and Messrs. John Adams, William Annin, and Philip Condict, elders, thirteen of whom to be a quorum. The commission to be convened by the moderator, (as occasion may require,) who is also to preside; and in case of his death or disability, the first surviving member on the roll to call the meeting; and the first on the roll of the members, when met, to preside.

Mr. Warford is now come, his reasons for non-attendance last year, and not sooner now, sustained.

Mr. Warford informs the Synod, that a certain David Allen, some time ago deceased, in the Forks of Delaware, did, as he has been informed, bequeath a considerable sum to the Synod, for the education of poor and pious youth for the ministry. Mr. Warford is ordered to inquire into this affair, and to receive the money, if to be had, and make report to next Synod.

The committee appointed last year to dispose of the interest of the charitable fund in the hand of the trustees of the college of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth for the ministry, report, that they met according to appointment, but as no objects offered, no distribution was made of any part of it.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Read, Halsey, Caldwell, and Dr. McWhorter, a committee to meet at Princeton, the last Wednesday of next September, to dispose of the interest of said fund.

The committee appointed last year to dispose of the interest of the money belonging to the Synod, in the hand of the corporation for the widows' fund, report, that they met as appointed, and made disposition.

The appointment of a committee to dispose of the interest of the above money for the past year, was deferred till the meeting of next Synod.

The committee of bills and overtures report, that they have no business to lay before the Synod.

The Synod, taking into their most serious consideration, that the lamentable decay of vital piety, for which we have had so much reason to mourn for several years past, still continues; that gross immoralities are increasing to an awful degree; and that the calamities of war are yet permitted to afflict our land, do therefore agree to renew the recommendation of last Synod to all our congregations, to spend the last Thursday of every month, or a part of it, in fervent prayer to God, that he would be pleased to pour out his Spirit on the inhabitants of our land, and prepare us for deliverance from the chastenings he hath righteously inflicted upon us for our sins; that he would graciously smile on our arms, and those of our illustrious ally, by land and sea; and grant a speedy and happy conclusion to the present war. And it is earnestly recommended to the several Presbyteries, to take care that this recommendation be complied with. And the clerk is ordered to transmit a copy of this minute to the moderator of every Presbytery, to be communicated.

The Synod taking into their consideration the non-attendance of many of our members upon Synodical sessions for some years past, and especially the present, are sincerely affected therewith, as it appears to them there is a criminal neglect in this matter, a forgetfulness of their ordination obligation, and a want of that public spirit and benevolent care of the church with which ministers of the gospel ought ever to be filled; and do therefore order the several Presbyteries belonging to this body to be reminded of their negligence herein,

and to endeavour to influence them to a more punctual discharge of this important duty of attending the meetings of the judicatures of the church.

Ordered, that the clerk transmit a copy of this minute to the moderator of each Presbytery, to be by him laid before them.

Adjourned to meet at Philadelphia, on the third Wednesday of next May, at 10 o'clock, A. M.—but if that place be in the enemy's hand, then to meet here Concluded with prayer.

1779.

Philadelphia, May 19th, 1779.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs Timothy Jones and Joseph Treat.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Brainerd, James Sproat, George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, and Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. Francis Alison and John Ewing.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, John Carmichael, William Foster, James Anderson, John McCreary. Thomas Read, John Woodhull, and Robert Davidson.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.

Elders: Messrs. Jonas Phillips, Gunning Bedford, Lewis Grant, Richard Walker, Arthur Park, William Harris, David Forman.

Absent: Of the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Jacob Green, Dr. John Rodgers, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Benjamin Hait, Benjamin Woodruff, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Aaron Richards, Nathan Kerr, Samuel Sacket, John Moffat, John Close, Joseph Grover, Dr. Hugh Knox, Jonathan Elmer, Abner Brush, and William Woodhull.

Of the New Brunswick Presbytery: The whole, except the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Nehemiah Greenman, James Watt, James Boyd, William Hollinshead, Daniel McCalla, Israel Evans, Andrew Hunter, and Robert Keith.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Steel, John Elder, John Simonton, Robert McMordie, and Patrick Alison.

The whole of Lewestown Presbytery.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Latta, John Clark, William McKennan, James Finley, Thomas Smith, Joseph Montgomery, James Wilson, Joseph Smith, James Power, Samuel Eakin, and James Armstrong.

Absent, the whole of Donegal Presbytery. The whole of Hanover Presbytery, except the Rev. Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith. The whole of Orange Presbytery.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. Jones, the last year's moderator, with a sermon on Rom. xiii. 14.

The Rev. Dr. Ewing chosen moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Duffield, clerk.

Messrs. McDowell, Jones, Treat, and Duffield, their reasons for absence from the Synod in 1777, sustained.

Ordered, That all the Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning.

Messrs. Mitchell, Treat, and McCreary, with Messrs. Grant and Park, elders,

are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment, as occasion may require.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Dr. McWhorter, Messrs. James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, Jeremiah Halsey, James Sproat, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, John Simonton, Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, William Foster, John Carmichael, Robert Cooper, John Craighead, and Thomas McFerrin, with the moderator, and the following elders, viz. Messrs. Gunning Bedford, Lewis Grant, Richard Walker, and William Harris; thirteen of whom to be a quorum, and that the moderator convene the commission as occasion may require, and preside in the meeting; or, in case of his death or disability, that the first surviving member on the roll call the meeting, and the first on the roll of the members convened to preside.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Read, Brainerd, Foster, and Woodhull, a committee to dispose of the money in the hands of the corporation for the widows' fund.

The Synod taking into consideration the great and increasing decay of vital piety, the degeneracy of manners, want of public spirit, and prevalence of vice and immorality that obtains throughout our land, and that the righteous God, by continuing still to afflict us with the sore calamity of a cruel and barbarous war, is loudly calling the inhabitants to repentance and reformation, and as a means thereto, to deep humiliation, frequent and fervent prayer, do therefore appoint Thursday, the 17th day of August next, to be observed by all under our care, as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; and do also renew the recommendation of former Synods to all their congregations, to spend a part of the last Thursday in every month, in social prayer, as their circumstances may admit.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. James Wilson, of New Castle Presbytery, is now come.

The first Philadelphia Presbytery report, that since the meeting of Synod, 1777, they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. James Grier, and Mr. Andrew Hunter; and licensed Mr. Isaac Keith, and Mr. Hugh Brackenridge, to preach the gospel; the latter of whom has since resigned his license, which the Presbytery accepted. And the Rev. Dr. Richard Treat departed this life the 20th of last November.

New Castle Presbytery report, that since the meeting of Synod, 1777, they have licensed Messrs. Matthew Tate, Nathaniel Semple, and John Finley, to preach the gospel; and dismissed the Rev. Mr. Woodhull, in order to his joining the Presbytery of New Brunswick, where he had accepted a call.

Mr. Carmichael's elder, Mr. Samuel Holliday, is now come.

Dr. Witherspoon informs the Synod that he has lately received a legacy, left by the Rev. Mr. Diodati Johnson, of New England, to be deposited with this Synod for their disposal, and that there is now in his hand three hundred and thirty-two pounds, twelve shillings, belonging to the Synod.

The Synod appoint the interest now due on the three hundred pounds in the hand of the corporation of the New Jersey College, for an Indian mission, to be given to Mr. Brainerd, for his services among the Indians.

The Synod appoint Dr. Ewing to apply to the corporation of the College of New Jersey for the three hundred pounds belonging to this Synod, in their hand, to dispose of it as directed by Synod the year before last.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

The Synod met at three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to dispose of the money in the hand of the corporation for the widows' fund report, that they have disposed of the same, and their minutes being produced and read, the Synod approve of the disposition they have made.

A reference from the Presbytery of New Castle was brought in by the committee of overtures, respecting a certain Anthony Duchane, who had married the sister of his former wife, and praying the advice of Synod, whether the said Duchane may be admitted to enjoy church privileges in his present situation, or what ought to be done in such case.

The Synod proceeded to consider the above case, and after debating to a considerable length, agreed to defer it to the meeting of Synod next year.

The Rev. Mr. James Caldwell is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

21*st day, A. M. Met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.*

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Eakin is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The minutes of last Synod being now brought in, ordered, that they be read.

By the report now made by the New Castle Presbytery, it appears that there was a mistake in the report of last year, respecting Mr. Armstrong's ordination; that he was not ordained, *sine titulo*, but in consequence of his having accepted a chaplaincy in the army.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Read, Halsey, Caldwell, and Dr. McWhorter, a committee to meet at Princeton, the last Wednesday of next September, to dispose of the interest of the charitable fund in the hand of the trustees of the College of New Jersey for the education of poor and pious youth for the work of the gospel ministry.

An application by a member of Hanover Presbytery praying that some missionaries might be sent into the state of Virginia to preach the gospel, and especially that a few ministers of genius, prudence, and address, might spend some considerable time in attempting to form that people into regular congregations, under the discipline and government of the Presbyterian church, and to settle among them, and undertake the education of their youth, representing that there appears at present in many parts of that state, a very favourable disposition towards religion in general, and towards the Presbyterian church in particular; that it is greatly for the interest of the church to pay a particular attention to the southern and western parts of this continent; that congregations which may be formed there will be permanent and fixed, whereas the continual migration of the inhabitants of our interior congregations, diminish their importance and threaten their dissolution; that it is not desirable, nor to be expected, that that extensive country should continue long without some form of religion; that this Synod has now an opportunity of promoting the interest of religion extensively, which in a few years may be utterly lost by the prevalency and pre-occupying of many ignorant and irreligious sectaries; the Synod do, therefore, earnestly recommend it to all their Presbyteries to turn their attention to this object, as peculiarly interesting and important; and if it is by any means possible, to furnish some missions to the state of Virginia, and such especially as shall endeavour to form congregations, and to effect a settlement among them, having respect to the popular talents as well as

piety of such missionaries, and to their capacity for directing the education of youth.

The Synod being informed that the Rev. Mr. Josiah Lewis, who was annexed to the Lewestown Presbytery by the Synod at their meeting, 1773, has never yet attended at any of the meetings of that Presbytery, but removed to a distant part; and as some reports have arisen to the disadvantage of his moral character, the Synod do hereby order the Lewestown Presbytery to take cognizance of Mr. Lewis in the premises, and make report at the next meeting of Synod.

Ordered, That the Rev. Mr. Thomas Read furnish the Presbytery of Lewestown with a copy of this minute.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, at ten o'clock, A. M. at the First Presbyterian church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

1780.

Philadelphia, May 17*th*, 1780.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the First Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Elihu Spencer and John Woodhull.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Sproat, John Brainerd, George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, William Schenck, and Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing and the Rev. Mr. Robert Davidson.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Carmichael, John McCreary, Thomas Read, and Samuel Eakin.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. John Miller.

Elders: Capt. Thomas Bourn, Messrs. Robert Porter, Lewis Grant, and Dr. Isaac Harris.

Absent: Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Messrs. John Guild, Israel Reed, Samuel Kennedy, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, Francis Peppard, Philip Stockton, John Warford, Jeremiah Halsey.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Watt, James Grier, William Hollingshead, Daniel McCalla, Andrew Hunter, Israel Evans.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Elder, Robert McMordie, John Simonton, and Patrick Alison.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, William McKennan, William Forster, Thomas Smith, Joseph Smith, John Clark, Joseph Montgomery, James Power, James Armstrong.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, John Rankin, Samuel McMasters.

All the members of New York, Dutchess, Suffolk, and Donegal Presbyteries.

The whole of Hanover Presbytery being absent, the Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, late a member of that Presbytery, informed the Synod of their names, viz.: the Rev. Messrs. John Todd, John Brown, Richard Zanchy, Charles Cummings, James Waddel, David Price, Caleb Wallace, William Irwin, John B. Smith, Archibald Scott, Samuel Doak, Edward Crawford. Licensed candidates of said Presbytery: Messrs. William Wilson, Benjamin Irwin, James Crawford, Terah Templin.

Orange Presbytery absent: The Rev. Dr. McWhorter, Henry Patillo, Hugh McCaden, James Campbell, David Caldwell, James Frazier, James McCorkel, Joseph Alexander, Thomas Reese, John Sympson, R. Archibold, Thomas McCall, Harris, Hall, Edmund, Thomas Craighead, James Templeton, Corson. Candidates: Donnel, McEwen, Leak, Barr, Thacher.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Dr. Ewing, last year's moderator, with a sermon on 1 Cor. iv. 2.

The Rev. Mr. Miller chosen moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, clerk.

The Rev. Mr. Robert Keith is now come.

The Rev. John Debow is now come.

Messrs. Spencer, Keith, Miller, Eakin, and Debow, who were absent from our last, gave their reasons for absence, which were sustained.

The Rev. Mr. James Anderson is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, are sustained.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning, and a list of absent members.

Messrs. Woodhull, Irwin, and Read, together with Porter and Grant, are appointed a committee of overtures, to meet to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournments, as occasion may require.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Blair being present, but not having united himself to any Presbytery, being invited, sat as a correspondent.

The Synod appoint as a commission for the ensuing year, the Rev. Dr. Ewing, the Rev. Messrs. James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, Israel Reed, Jeremiah Halsey, James Sproat, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, John Simonton, Alexander McDowell, Robert Smith, William Foster, John Carmichael, Robert Cooper, Thomas McFerrin, and John Craighead, with the moderator and the following elders, viz. Capt. Bourn, Dr. Harris, Dr. Scudder, and Messrs. Porter and Grant; thirteen of whom to be a quorum, and the moderator to convene the commission as occasion may require, and preside in the meeting; or, in case of his death or disability, the first surviving member on the roll to call the meeting, and the first on the roll of the members convened, to preside.

The Synod appoint the Rev. Messrs. Spencer, Duffield, Woodhull, McCreary, and Read, a committee to dispose of the interest of the money in the hands of the corporation for the widows' fund.

Messrs. Boyd and Stanhope Smith are now come, and their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Dr. Ewing reports, that he has not received the £300 lying in the hands of the corporation of New Jersey college.

The Synod agree to let that money remain for the present in the hands of said corporation.

The committee appointed by Synod to dispose of moneys for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, in the hands of the treasurer of New Jersey college, not meeting according to appointment, no disposition was made.

New Brunswick Presbytery report, that they have ordained the Rev. Mr. George Faitout, and received Mr. Woodhull as a member of that Presbytery.

First Philadelphia Presbytery report, that the Rev. Mr. Nehemiah Greenman is removed by death since our last, viz. July, and that they have received the Rev. William Schenck as a member of that Presbytery.

Second Philadelphia Presbytery report, that the Rev. Dr. Francis Alison departed this life the 28th day of November, 1779, and that they have received the Rev. Robert Davidson as a member of that Presbytery. They further report, that the Rev. Mr. John Steel departed this life the — day of August.

New Castle Presbytery report, that they have ordained the Rev. Mr. William

Smith to the work of the gospel ministry, and that they have dismissed the Rev. Mr. Robert Davidson to join the Second Philadelphia Presbytery.

Lewestown Presbytery report, that they have ordained Messrs. John Rankin and Samuel McMasters to the work of the gospel ministry.

Orange Presbytery report, that they have ordained the Rev. Messrs. Craighead, McCrea, and James Templeton, to the work of the gospel ministry, and that they have licensed Messrs. Jacob Leak and McEwen to preach the gospel.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, to meet at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, ten o'clock, A. M., met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Halsey is now come, and his reasons for not attending sooner, and also of his absence last Synod, are sustained.

Messrs. Latta and Finley are now come, and their reasons of absence last Synod, and not attending sooner, are sustained.

Messrs. Robert and William Smith are now come, and their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Dr. Nathaniel Scudder, Mr. Woodhull's elder, is now come.

On reading the minutes of last *sederunt*, it was, on motion, resolved, that Mr. Duffield be appointed to apply to the corporation of the college of New Jersey for the three hundred pounds in their hands, belonging to the Synod, with the interest due at the time of receiving, and put the principal into the Continental Loan Office, and give the interest to Mr. Brainerd for his services among the Indians.

The Synod appoint Messrs. Spencer, Israel Read, Halsey, Caldwell, and Dr. Witherspoon, a committee to dispose of the money in the hands of the corporation of New Jersey College, for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, and to meet for that purpose at Princeton, the last Wednesday of next September.

On motion, resolved, that Messrs. Halsey, Duffield, and Latta, be a committee to review the minutes of Synod, as far back as the year 1774, whether any matters brought before Synod have been omitted, and make report.

As the Lewestown Presbytery have not yet taken cognizance of Mr. Josiah Lewis, as ordered last Synod, the Synod renew their order in that matter, and direct that Presbytery to proceed in the affair as soon as possible.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

The Synod met at three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

As the sum of the legacy left by the Rev. Mr. Diodate Johnson, of New England, to the disposal of this Synod, and received by Dr. Witherspoon, Synod treasurer, is not specified in our minutes, the Synod appoint Mr. Spencer to inquire of the Doctor, what the sum is, and when it was received, and make report next Synod, if the Doctor should not be then present.

The reference from the Presbytery of New Castle, respecting a certain marriage, brought in last year, deferred to next Synod.

The committee appointed to review the records of Synod, as far back as the year 1774, report, that an affair respecting the enslaving of negroes, appears to have been before the Synod, A. D. 1774, but by some means passed over the following Synods, and not since resumed.

The Synod resumed the consideration of that affair, and after debating the same to considerable length,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to review the minutes of Synod, as far back as 1774, report, that there appears to have been before the Synod, 1774, a letter from the Rev. Mr. William Marshall, clerk of the Associate Presbytery, which was ordered to have been recorded in the appendix, and an address, said to be an affair of great importance, and that neither of these appear on record.

The Synod appoint Mr. Sproat, the stated clerk, together with Mr. Duffield, to collect such papers of importance as belong to the Synod, and are not on record, and have them entered in an appendix to be kept for such purpose.

The said committee further report, that an order of Synod, 1777, to the Presbytery of New Castle, to bring in their minutes of an affair respecting marriage, by them referred to Synod, has not been complied with. The Synod renew their former order in this matter to that Presbytery.

The committee of overtures brought in a reference from the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, requesting the advice of Synod, whether Mr. Isaac Keith, a probationer under their care, may be ordained *sine titulo.*

The Synod, after hearing the above case laid before them by said Presbytery, and considering the circumstances attending it, apprehend there will be a propriety in their ordaining Mr. Keith as proposed, and accordingly authorize the Presbytery to proceed.

The Synod taking into consideration the great and increasing decay of vital piety, the degeneracy of manners, want of public spirit, and prevalence of vice and immorality, that obtain throughout our land, and that the righteous God, by continuing still to afflict us with the sore calamity of a cruel and barbarous war, is loudly calling the inhabitants to repentance and reformation, and as a means thereto to deep humiliation and frequent fervent prayer; do therefore appoint Thursday the 17th day of next August to be observed as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, by all the congregations under our care; and do also renew the recommendation of former Synods to all their congregations, to spend a part of the last Thursday of every month in social prayer, as circumstances may admit.

The Synod agree to pay the janitor for his attendance on the present sessions, the sum of two hundred dollars.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, to meet at ten o'clock, A. M. in the Second Presbyterian church in this city.

Concluded with prayer.

1781.

Philadelphia, May 16th, 1781.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the Second Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. Andrew King.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Elihu Spencer and Samuel S. Smith.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. James Sproat, Messrs. George Duffield, William Schenck, and Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing and Rev. Mr. Robert Davidson.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs Robert Smith, James Finley, John McCreary, William Smith, and James Anderson.

Of the Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Cooper and Isaac Keith.

Of the Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. John Miller.

Of the Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. John Smith.

Of the Orange Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Drs. John Rodgers and Hugh Knox, the Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, James Caldwell, Aaron Richards, Azel Roe, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Woodruff, John Joline, Nathan Kerr, John Moffatt, Joseph Treat, Simon Horton, John Close, Abner Brush, Alexander Miller, Jedidiah Chapman, and Van Arsdalen.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Guild, Joseph Reed, Samuel Kennedy, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, Francis Peppard, Philip Stockton, John Warford, and John Woodhull.

Of the First Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Messrs. James Watt, William Hollingshead, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, James Grier, Daniel McCalla, Israel Evans, Andrew Hunter, and Robert Keith.

Of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, John Elder, and Robert McMordie.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Messrs. Alexander McDowell, William McKennan, Joseph Montgomery, James Latta, Thomas Smith, Joseph Smith, Thomas Reed, James Francis Armstrong, James Power, Samuel Eakin, John Clark, and John Carmichael.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, James Hunt, Hugh McGill, John Hogg, James Martin, Colin McFarquhar, Amos Thompson, John Slemmons, James Lang, John King, John Craighead, Samuel Dougal, John Linn, John McKnight, Hezekiah Balch, William Linn, John McMillan, John Black, David Bard, and Samuel Waugh.

Of the Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Houston, John Ranken, and Samuel McMasters.

The whole Presbytery of Hanover except Mr. John Smith.

The whole Presbytery of Orange, except Dr. McWhorter.

The whole Presbytery of Dutchess.

Elders present: Messrs. John Williams, Robert Mead, Lewis Grant, Robert Porter.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. Miller, the moderator last year, with a sermon on Acts xx. 28.

Mr. Duffield chosen moderator, and Messrs. Irwin and Samuel S. Smith clerks.

The several Presbyteries are ordered to bring in their reports by to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Messrs. Cooper, Finley, and King, together with Messrs. Porter and Grant, elders, are appointed a committee of overtures to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterward upon adjournment, as occasion may require.

The Synod as a commission for the ensuing year, appoint the Rev. Drs. Ewing and Sproat, the Rev. Messrs. James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, Israel Reed, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, John Simonton, Robert Smith, John Carmichael, Robert Cooper, Thomas McFerrin, and John Craighead, with the moderator; together with Messrs. John Williams, Robert Mead, Lewis Grant, and Robert Porter, elders; thirteen of whom to be a quorum, and the moderator to convene the commission as occasion may require, and preside in

the meeting, or in case of his death or disability, the first surviving member on the roll to call the meeting, and the first on the roll of the members convened, to preside.

Some members of the committee appointed by Synod last year, to dispose of the interest of the money in the hands of the corporation for the widows' fund, inform that the committee met and disposed of the money according to order; their minutes not being present, they are ordered to bring them at the next meeting of Synod. The Rev. Dr. McWhorter, the Rev. Messrs. Duffield, McCreary, Davidson, and Irwin, are appointed a committee to dispose of the interest arising from said money this year.

Mr. Duffield has not fulfilled the order of last Synod respecting the three hundred pounds in the hands of the corporation of the college of New Jersey. The Synod on consideration, agreed that that money be continued for the present in the hands of the corporation.

The committee appointed by last Synod, to dispose of the money in the hands of the corporation of the College of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth, met, but no proper object offering, the distribution was not made.

Ordered, That the Rev. Drs. McWhorter and Witherspoon, the Rev. Messrs. Israel Read, Elihu Spencer, and James Caldwell, be appointed a committee to dispose of said money, and to meet at Princeton the last Wednesday of September next, for that purpose.

No report being made from Lewes Presbytery respecting the Rev. Mr. Lewis,

Ordered, That they bring in their report at our next meeting.

The committee appointed to collect and insert in the Synod's book, papers of importance belonging to Synod, inform that they have collected said papers according to order, but have not yet inserted them.

On further consideration, instead of inserting them in the Appendix, the Synod order, that the stated clerk, file, date, and indorse all such papers, and preserve them for the use of Synod.

The Presbytery of New Castle have not brought in their minutes respecting a case of marriage, as ordered in our last.

The Synod renew their orders to that Presbytery.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Alison is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Presbytery of New York report, that they have ordained Mr. John Joline to the work of the gospel ministry, and licensed Messrs. Fish and Fordham to preach the gospel; that the Rev. Mr. Hait departed this life the 27th of June, 1779; and that Messrs. Green, Lewis, Grover, and Bradford, have withdrawn from that Presbytery.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick report, that they have, since the last meeting of Synod, received as a member the Rev. Mr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, and licensed Mr. Peter Wilson to preach the gospel, and that the Rev. Jeremiah Halsey departed this life the beginning of October last.

The First Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained Mr. Isaac Keith to the work of the gospel ministry, and dismissed him to join the Presbytery of Donegal, and that the Rev. John Brainerd departed this life the 21st day of March last.

The Presbytery of New Castle report, that the Rev. William Foster was removed by death in September last.

The Donegal Presbytery report, that in the four years past, they have licensed Messrs. Samuel Waugh, James Dunlap, David Bard, Stephen Balch, Joseph Henderson, and Matthew Woods, to preach the gospel, and that they have ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Messrs. John Linn, David Bard, Samuel Waugh, and received from the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Rev. Isaac Keith.

Dr. McWhorter reported to the Synod, that the distressed circumstances of North Carolina, arising from the war, have rendered the objects of his removal thither abortive, and prevented him from obtaining a regular dismission from the Orange Presbytery.

Ordered, That Dr. McWorter be re-united to the New York Presbytery.

Mr. Spencer reported, that agreeably to the order of Synod last year, he had waited on Dr. Witherspoon, the treasurer of Synod, and received from him the following account of moneys in his hand:

1777, May 20th,	By balance of this date due to Synod - good money.	£54	9	5½
1779, Feb. 26th,	By cash received of Rev. Mr. Johnson's legacy, - - - -	£278	3	4
	Out of which he has paid, by order of Synod, - - - -	39	0	0
	Remains due, - - - -	£239	3	4
of the value of money of 26th February, 1779.	Together with the good money, above-mentioned.	£54	9	5½

The consideration of the reference from the New Castle Presbytery, respecting the marriage of a certain Anthony Duchane, deferred till next Synod.

Whereas, the Synod is deeply affected that the judicatures of the church are so exceedingly neglected, both by ministers and elders, especially the latter, and taking this matter into serious consideration, and apprehending that one reason of this non-attendance, particularly on the sessions of Synod, arises from the congregations making no provision for defraying the expenses of ministers and elders, do therefore request the Presbyteries to direct their members to recommend it to their respective congregations to make contributions for this purpose; and the Synod do further request, that the Presbyteries take every proper measure to excite their members to attend upon this judicature.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Boyd, Clark, and Robert Keith, are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Rev. Messrs. Joseph Smith, John McMillan, James Powers, and Thaddeus Dodd, having requested to be erected into a separate Presbytery, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Redstone, the Synod grant their request, and appoint their first meeting to be held at Laurel Hill Church, the third Wednesday of September next, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The Presbytery of New Castle applied to Synod for liberty to ordain Mr. Daniel Jones, *sine titulo*, to the work of the gospel ministry, which was granted.

The Synod renew the recommendation of some former Synods, to all their congregations, to spend a part of the last Thursday of every month in social prayer, as their respective circumstances will admit.

The Synod agree to pay the janitor three dollars specie, for his attendance

on the present session; and the stated clerk forty shillings specie, for transcribing the minutes of Synod for two years past.

Ordered, That Dr. Sproat draw upon the treasurer of Synod for the above sums of money.

Adjourned to meet at the first Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, the third Wednesday of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1782.

Philadelphia, May 15th, 1782.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment at the First Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of New York Presbytery: Rev. Alexander Miller.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: Rev. Drs. Witherspoon and Spencer, Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, John Warford, Samuel Stanhope Smith. Elder, Kenith Henkinson.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Dr. Sproat, Rev. Messrs. Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, Nathaniel Irwin, William Hollinshead, William Schenck, Robert Keith. Elders, Messrs. Hugh Hodge, John Burley, John Hutton.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Drs. John Ewing, Patrick Alison, Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, Robert Davidson. Elders, Robert Porter, John Boyd.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, James Finley, James Latta, James Anderson, James Armstrong, Daniel Jones, William Smith. Elders, Messrs. John Clark, J. Sharpe, W. Cooke.

Of Donegal Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Colin McFarquhar, Robert Cooper, John Craighead, John King, I. Black, Isaac Keith.

Of Lewes Presbytery: Rev. John Miller.

Of Redstone Presbytery: Rev. James Power.

Absent: Of New York Presbytery: Rev. Drs. John Rodgers, Hugh Knox, Alexander McWhorter, Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, Aaron Richards, Simon Horton, Abner Brush, Jonathan Elmer, Benjamin Woodruff, Joseph Treat, Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, John Close, Jedidiah Chapman, Jacob Vanarsdalen, Andrew King, and John Joline.

Of the New Brunswick Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Samuel Kennedy, Israel Reed, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, Philip Stockton, and Francis Peppard.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. James Watt, George Duffield, James Grier, Daniel McCalla, Israel Evans, Andrew Hunter, and George Faitout.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. John Elder, and Robert McMordie.

Of New Castle Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, John McCreary, John Clark, Thomas Read, Thomas Smith, Samuel Eakin, Joseph Montgomery, John Carmichael, Nathaniel Semple, and John Finley.

Of Donegal Presbytery: Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, James Hunt, Amos Thompson, John Hoge, Hugh McGill, James Lang, Hugh Vance, James Martin, John Slemmons, Thomas McFerrin, William Linn, John McKnight, John Linn, David Bard, Samuel Waugh, Samuel Dougall, Joseph Henderson.

The whole of Lewes Presbytery absent, except the Rev. John Miller.

The whole Presbytery of Redstone, except Mr. Power.

The whole Presbyteries of Hanover, Orange, Suffolk, and Dutchess, absent.

The Rev. Samuel Blair was invited to sit as a correspondent member.

The moderator of last year being absent, the Synod was opened by Dr. Elihu Spencer, with a sermon from Matthew xxviii. 20.

The Rev. James Latta, of New Castle Presbytery, was chosen moderator, and Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin and Samuel S. Smith, were chosen clerks.

The Rev. Messrs. A. Miller, W. Hollingshead, John Woodhull, A. Mitchell, J. Simonton, James Power, John King, John Craighead, and John Black, who were absent last year, being now present, gave reasons for their absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Messrs. John Craighead, John Woodhull, James Boyd, James Anderson, Robert Keith, and Messrs. John Clarke and Thomas Sharp, were appointed to be a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournments, as occasion may require.

The Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon, John Ewing, James Sproat, Elihu Spencer, Alexander McWhorter, and Messrs. Azel Roe, Israel Reed, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, John Simonton, Robert Smith, John Carmichael, Robert Cooper, Thomas McFerrin, John Craighead, with the moderator, together with Messrs. Hugh Hodge, John Boyd, Robert Porter, John Clarke, elders, were appointed to be a commission of Synod for the ensuing year; thirteen of whom shall be a quorum. The moderator shall have power to convene a meeting, and to preside therein, and in case of his death or disability, the first surviving member on the list shall call a meeting, and the first on the list present shall preside.

The distribution made by the committee for disposing of certain moneys in the hands of the corporation of the widows' fund, in the year 1780, was reported to the Synod.

The committee appointed last year for disposing the said moneys met, and in consideration of the difficulties under which the corporation labour, through the decay of their funds, agree to remit these moneys to the corporation, to be by them applied to the ends of their institution.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Thursday morning, nine o'clock. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of New York reported, that the Rev. James Caldwell was removed by death on the 24th of November, 1781.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that they have dismissed the Rev. George Faitout to join the First Philadelphia Presbytery, and licensed Mr. Joseph Reed to preach the gospel.

The First Philadelphia Presbytery reported, that the Rev. William Mackey Tennent of Connecticut, and the Rev. George Faitout, had been received by them, and that Mr. Faitout had been installed in the congregation of Greenwich.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that the Rev. Alexander McDowell, was removed by death on the 12th of January, 1782, and that they have ordained the Rev. Messrs. Daniel Jones, John Evans Finley, and James Dunlap, to the work of the gospel ministry, and that since, Mr. Dunlap is removed within the bounds of Redstone Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Donegal reported, that they have ordained and installed Mr. Joseph Henderson, as pastor of the church of Great Canawaga, and that they have dismissed the Rev. Hezekiah Balch to join the Presbytery of Hanover.

The Presbytery of Orange reported, by a letter from their moderator, that

they have ordained Messrs. Robert Archibald, Thomas McCade, Thomas Craighead, James McKee, Daniel Thatcher, Samuel McCorkle, James Templeton, John Casson, James Hall, William Hill, to the work of the gospel ministry, and licensed Messrs. Thomas Donnell, David Barr, Samuel Lake, and Francis Cummings, to preach the gospel.

The Synod taking up the consideration of the interest of certain money in the hands of the corporation of the widows' fund, to be disposed of by them, or their committee, in conjunction with said corporation, appoint the Rev. Drs. Elihu Spencer, Joseph Montgomery, Patrick Alison, Messrs. Robert Cooper, John Black, Nathaniel Irwin, and Samuel S. Smith, for the ensuing year, a committee, who are particularly instructed to collect all the papers and vouchers they can procure for elucidating this matter and exhibiting it in its true light, to examine what is now the real state of the money in question, and to dispose of whatever there may be subject to their disposal.

The Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon, Alexander McWhorter, Elihu Spencer, and the Rev. Messrs. Israel Read, John Woodhull, and Samuel S. Smith, were appointed to be a committee to dispose of the interest of moneys in the hands of the corporation of the college of New Jersey, for the educating poor and pious youth, to meet at Princeton on the last day of September next.

The Synod renewed their recommendation to the Presbyteries under their care, to take proper measures to engage their members to attend the sessions of Synod, and to remind the congregations in their bounds, of their duty to make provision for defraying the expenses of ministers and elders in attending the judicatures of the church.

The Presbytery of Redstone reported, that they met and constituted according to the order of the last Synod.

Ordered, That the Rev. James Finley endeavour to procure the act of Synod of the year 1729, adopting the standards of the Church of Scotland, and produce it the next sessions.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries produce their Presbyterial records at the next session of Synod.

An appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of Donegal, on an accusation of fornication, was introduced by William Duffield, junior; after deliberation, ordered, that the further consideration of it be deferred till to-morrow.

An appeal from the judgment of the Presbytery of New Castle was brought in by the Rev. James Finley, upon the subject of his removal from his congregation; ordered, that it be deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

17th day, nine o'clock, A. M. The Synod met.

Messrs. Simonton and Clarke had leave of absence.

A letter was brought in from the Presbytery of Orange to the Synod, requesting liberty to ordain Mr. David Barr, *sine titulo*, to the work of the gospel ministry. Resolved, that they be permitted to ordain him accordingly.

The Synod proceeded to consider Mr. Finley's appeal from the judgment of New Castle Presbytery. The parties were fully heard, and the Synod having deliberated on the matter, are of opinion that the pastoral relation between Mr. Finley and his congregation ought to be dissolved, and they do accordingly dissolve it.

Mr. Tennent had leave of absence during the remainder of the session.

The subject of Mr. Duffield's appeal was resumed. Ordered, that the cause be remitted back to the Presbytery of Donegal.

As it appears the interest of religion is in danger of suffering greatly at present, from the many discouragements under which the ministers of the gospel labour, from the want of a sufficient support and liberal maintenance from the congregations they serve, the Synod appoint a committee to take this matter into consideration, and report thereon to the next Synod. Ordered, that Drs. Witherspoon, Ewing, and Spencer, be a committee for this purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met.

The Rev. John Blair Smith, of the Presbytery of Hanover, is come; the reasons for his not coming sooner are sustained.

Mr. Smith reports, that the Presbytery of Hanover have ordained Messrs. William Wilson, and John Montgomery, and had licensed Messrs. James Mitchell, and Samuel Shannon.

Anthony Dushane, who has married the sister of his former wife, and whose case has been before the Synod for two years past, preferred a petition, that he might no longer be debarred the privileges of the Church, on the account of said marriage. After full and deliberate discussion, the question was put, Shall Anthony Dushane and his wife be capable of Christian privileges, their marriage notwithstanding? which was carried in the affirmative by a considerable majority.

The following gentlemen chose to express their dissent from the preceding decision, viz: Alexander Miller, John King, John Craighead, Colin McFarquhar, James Power. The Rev. James Finley, and Robert Cooper, chose to protest against it, and had the liberty of sending their reasons hereafter.

Dr. John Witherspoon, Joseph Montgomery, and Dr. Elihu Spencer, were appointed to be a committee to prepare an address to the minister of France, congratulating him on the birth of a dauphin, son and heir to the crown of his royal master, expressing the pleasure the Synod feel on this happy event.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, seven o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, seven o'clock, A. M. The Synod met.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of an address to the minister of France, brought in one; which being read, paragraph by paragraph, ordered, that it be signed by the moderator, and that the moderator, Dr. Witherspoon, and Mr. Montgomery, be a committee to wait upon the minister, and to present the above in the name and behalf of the Synod.

The Presbytery of New Nork represented to Synod that one of their members now resided in the bounds of New Brunswick Presbytery, whose moral character laboured under some imputations, and requested the advice of Synod as to which of the Presbyteries should make the inquiry into that matter, whereupon the Synod judged it to be the duty of the Presbytery of New York.

Notwithstanding the decision of last evening in the particular case of Anthony Dushane, the Synod, in consideration that such marriages are of ill report in many parts of the Church, do recommend it to their people, to abstain from them, in order to avoid giving offence.

Agreed, to pay the janitor forty shillings for his attendance on the present session. Ordered, that Dr. Sproat draw upon the treasurer of Synod for the same.

Adjourned to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia, the third Wednesday of May next, at eleven o'clock, *ante meridiem.*

Concluded with prayer.

1783.

Philadelphia, May 21st, 1783.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the Second Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. John Rodgers and Alexander McWhorter, the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Kerr, Jonathan Elmer, and Alexander Miller.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon and Elihu Spencer, the Rev. Messrs. Samuel S. Smith, Samuel Kennedy, and Francis Peppard.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. James Sproat, the Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, William Hollingshead, William Tennent, Daniel McCalla, George Faitout, Nathaniel Irwin, and Samuel Blair.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, the Rev. Messrs. Robert McMordie, and Robert Davidson.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Messrs. James Latta, Robert Smith, James Finley, Thomas Read, William Smith, John Carmichael, John McCreary, James Anderson, and Daniel Jones.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Cooper, James Lang, John Craighead, John King, Colin McFarquhar, Thomas McFerrin, William Linn, and John Black.

Of the Presbytery of Redstone: The Rev. Mr. John McMillan.

Of the Presbytery of Lewes: The Rev. Messrs. John Miller and Samuel McMasters.

Of the Presbytery of Orange: The Rev. Mr. James Edmunds.

Elders: Messrs. William Faulkner, John Pinkerton, William McIntire, John Bergen, Robert Porter, James Porter, William Brizben, Samuel Waugh, Lucas Aldridge, and Patrick Scott.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Dr. Hugh Knox, the Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, Simon Horton, Aaron Richards, John Moffatt, Benjamin Woodruff, Abner Brush, Joseph Treat, Azel Roe, Jedidiah Chapman, Jacob Vanarsdalen, Matthias Burnet, Andrew King, and John Joline.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Israel Read, John Hannah, John Woodhull, John Warford, Thomas Smith, and Philip Stockton.

Of the First Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Messrs. James Watt, William Schenck, James Grier, Andrew Hunter, Israel Evans, and Robert Keith.

Of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Messrs. John Elder and John Simonton.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, Joseph Montgomery, James Armstrong, John Finley, Thomas Smith, and Samuel Eakin.

Of the Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, John Hogg, James Martin, Hugh McGill, Amos Thompson, James Hunt, Hugh Vance, Samuel Dougal, John McKnight, John Linn, David Bard, Samuel Waugh, Joseph Henderson, Matthew Woods, and Stephen Balch.

Of the Presbytery of Redstone: The Rev. Messrs. John Clark, James Power, Thaddeus Dodd, James Dunlap, and Joseph Smith.

Of the Presbytery of Orange: The Rev. Messrs. John Hill, Joseph Alexander, John Debeau, Casson, Roe, Archibald, McCall, Barr, Harris, Thacher, Caldwell, Patillo, Craighead, McCorkle, Templeton.

Of the Presbytery of Lewes: The Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, and John Rankin.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Latta, the last year's moderator, with a sermon from 1 Tim. iv. 16.

The Rev John McCreary, of New Castle Presbytery, was chosen moderator, and the Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin and John Black were chosen clerks.

The members who were absent from last Synod, as also from preceding Synods, and now present, gave their reasons of absence, which were sustained.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Messrs. Alexander Miller, Peppard, Mitchell, McMordie, William Smith, Lang, John Miller, McMillan, Edmunds; with the elders, Messrs. Brizban, Porter, Faulkner, and Scott, were appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment, as occasion may require.

The Synod proceeded to the choice of a commission for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were appointed, viz. Drs. Witherspoon, Ewing, Sproat, Spencer, and McWhorter, Messrs. Roe, Israel Read, Mitchell, Boyd, Simonton, Robert Smith, Carmichael, Cooper, McFerrin, John Miller, Matthew Wilson, and John McCreary, with elders Faulkner, Pinkerton, McIntire, Bergen, R. Porter, J. Porter, and Brizban; of these, thirteen shall be a quorum. The moderator, with advice of six members, shall have power to call a meeting, and to preside there; in case of his death or disability, the first surviving member on the list shall call the meeting, and the first on the list of the members convened, shall preside.

The committee appointed last Synod to examine into the state of the widows' fund with regard to certain moneys in the hands of the corporaton of said fund, which is subject to be disposed of by Synod, or their committee, report, that they have not transacted that business.

The Synod then proceeded to the choice of a new committee for the same business, when the following gentlemen were chosen, viz. Rev. Drs. Elihu Spencer and Alexander McWhorter, Rev. Messrs. James Boyd, Robert Davidson, and Nathaniel Irwin, who are instructed to report to Synod before the conclusion of the present sessions.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Thursday morning, at nine o'clock, the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. John Slemmons is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, as also for being absent from several preceding meetings of Synod, sustained; his elder, Mr. William Ross.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison and Rev. Nathaniel Semple are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained; Mr. Semple's elder is Mr. Robert Bayly.

The Presbytery of New York report, that the Rev. Mr. William Woodhull, one of their members, appeared before them at their last meeting, and stated to them his situation, as being still incapable of exercising his ministry by his continued indisposition, and the little, or rather no probability of his ever being able to attempt the exercise of it in future, and that he was at the same time engaged in certain secular employments that would seem to render it improper to have his name in their records as a member, while he is incapable of attending their meetings, or discharging any of the great duties of his ministry, and therefore submits to them the propriety of their continuing and considering him

as a member from time to time; and that the Presbytery, on considering his situation, thought it best to leave his name out of their records in future, till he shall be able to return to the exercise of his ministry, an event that would give them great pleasure.

The Synod considered the above report, and are of opinion, that Mr. Woodhull ought to be continued a member of the Presbytery of New York, and therefore direct that Presbytery to insert his name in their roll.

The Rev. Mr. Isaac Keith is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that they had licensed since our last meeting, Mr. Joseph Clark to preach the gospel.

The First Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that they have installed the Rev. William Mackey Tennent in the united congregations of Abington, Norrington, and New Providence, and that they have received the Rev. Samuel Blair as a member; and also received under their care Mr. Simeon Hyde, a probationer from the eastern churches.

The Presbytery of Donegal reported, that they have ordained the Rev. Matthew Woods, and the Rev. Stephen Balch to the work of the gospel ministry, and licensed Mr. William Boyd and Mr. James Johnston to preach the gospel, since our last meeting.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that they have dismissed the Rev. Mr. John Clark from them to join the Presbytery of Redstone, since our last meeting.

The Presbytery of Redstone reported, that they have received the Rev. Messrs. John Clark and James Dunlap, as members, since our last sessions.

Ordered, To proceed in reading the minutes of the last session.

Mr. Finley reports, that he has not been able to procure the act of Synod of the year 1729, adopting the standards of the Church of Scotland.

Ordered, That Mr. Cooper and Mr. Boyd be a committee to examine the New York Presbytery book, that Mr. Tennent and Mr. King be a committee to examine New Brunswick Presbytery book, that Mr. Elmer and Mr. Kerr be a committee to examine the First Philadelphia Presbytery book, and to report on Friday morning.

Whereas, the Presbyteries of Donegal, New Castle, Lewes, Orange, and Redstone, have not produced their Presbytery books, ordered, that they be careful in future to lay the said books before Synod.

Upon motion, ordered, that the clerk of the Synod write to the Presbyteries of Hanover, Suffolk, and Dutchess, that they be careful to attend the meetings of Synod in future; and that if any circumstances should necessarily prevent any of those Presbyteries from attending at any particular time, they should make the necessary reports to Synod by letter, and send their Presbytery books for examination.

Mr. Francis Gamer, Mr. Carmichael's elder, is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Rev. James Grier is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Smith is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Whereas, there was an order of last Synod for the expunging of a minute in the proceedings of Synod of 1781, the Synod now taking up the matter, agree,

that our minutes ought not to be expunged in any instance, and that the said minute ought, therefore, to be now revived and inserted in the present records; accordingly it is hereby revived and is as follows, viz:

"It having been represented to Synod, that the Presbyterian church suffers greatly in the opinion of other denominations, from an apprehension that they hold intolerant principles, the Synod do solemnly and publicly declare, that they ever have, and still do renounce and abhor the principles of intolerance; and we do believe that every peaceable member of civil society ought to be protected in the full and free exercise of their religion."

Remonstrances from sundry congregations were brought in by the committee of overtures, requesting a reversing of the decision of last Synod, respecting the marriage of a man with his former wife's sister. After much deliberation, Synod agree to reconsider the subject to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Robert Keith is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Mr. Carmichael hath leave of absence during the remainder of the present sessions.

Agreeably to the order of this day, the Synod proceeded to reconsider the case of marriage, and discussed the subject at considerable length; the further consideration thereof deferred till the afternoon.

The Rev. Dr. McWhorter hath leave of absence during the remainder of the present sessions.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Ross, Mr. Slemmons's elder, hath leave of absence till to-morrow morning.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the case of marriage, and after debating the matter at some length, agreed to defer the final decision thereof till to-morrow morning.

Through the committee of overtures, it was requested by the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, that the Synod declare to them their sense on this point, viz: whether a person without a liberal education may be taken on trials or licensed to preach the gospel? The question being put, it was carried in the negative.

A committee was appointed last sessions of Synod to take into consideration the difficulties under which gospel ministers labour, for want of a liberal maintenance from the congregations they serve, and report to this Synod; said committee brought in their report, which was read and considered: Whereupon ordered, that Drs. Witherspoon and Spencer, with Mr. S. Smith, be a committee to prepare a draught of a pastoral letter to the congregations, under the inspection of Synod, as also to prepare some resolves to be past by Synod, and accompany said letter; the whole to be brought in to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod having again resumed the consideration of the judgment which they passed last year concerning Anthony Dushane, declare their dissatisfaction with all such marriages as are inconsistent with the Levitical law, and that persons marrying within the degrees of consanguinity prohibited in that law, ought to suffer the censures of the church; and they further judge, that although the marriage of a man to two sisters successively, viz: to the one after the death of the other, may not be a direct violation of the express words of that law, yet as it is contrary to the custom of the Protestant churches in general, and an evidence of great untenderness towards many serious and well disposed Christians, and may, through the prejudices or generally received opinions of the members of our church, be productive of very disagreeable consequences; the persons contracting such marriages are highly censurable, and the practice ought to be disallowed in express terms by the Synod, and we do therefore condemn such marriages as imprudent and unseasonable. Yet as some things may be done very imprudently and unseasonably, which when done ought not to be annulled, we are of opinion, that it is not necessary for the persons whom this judgment respects to separate from one another, yet they should not be received into the communion of the church without a solemn admonition, at the discretion of the session of the congregation to which they belong; and the Synod publicly recommend it to all their members to abstain from celebrating such marriages, and to discountenance them by all the proper means in their power.

Mr. Finley dissented from the above judgment, and requested leave to enter his reasons of dissent in the minutes, which was granted.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a pastoral letter to the congregations under the inspection of Synod, reported one, which, after a few alterations, was approved of, and Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Black were directed to have it fairly transcribed, signed by the moderator, and printed.

The consideration of the resolves brought in by the committee which draughted the pastoral letter, deferred till next Synod.

The Synod taking into consideration the situation of many people under their care, who, through the indigence of their circumstances are not able to purchase Bibles, and are in danger of perishing for lack of knowledge:

Ordered, That every member of this body shall use his utmost influence in the congregation under his inspection, and in the vacancies contiguous to them, to raise contributions for the purchasing of Bibles, to be distributed among such poor persons; and that Dr. Sproat and Ewing, and Mr. Duffield, be a committee to receive such contributions, to purchase Bibles therewith, and send them to the several members of this Synod, who, in conjunction with their respective sessions, shall distribute them. And as Mr. Aitken, from laudable motives, and with great expense, hath undertaken and executed an elegant impression of the Holy Scriptures, which, on account of the importation of Bibles from Europe, will be very injurious to his temporal circumstances: Synod further agree, that the above committee shall purchase Bibles of the said impression and no other, and earnestly recommend it to all, to purchase such in preference to any other.

The committees appointed to examine the Presbytery books reported accordingly.

Agreed to pay the stated clerk forty shillings for transcribing the minutes of two years; to discharge the bill of one pound, one shilling, and six pence, contingent expenses; and to pay the janitor forty shillings for his attendance on the present sessions.

Ordered, That Dr. Sproat draw upon the treasurer of Synod for the above sums.

Adjourned to meet at the First Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia, the third Wednesday of May next, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1784.

Philadelphia, May 19*th*, 1784.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met according to adjournment, at the First Presbyterian church.

Present: Of the New York Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Elmer, Nathan Kerr, Alexander Miller.

Of the New Brunswick Presbytery: Rev. Dr. Elihu Spencer.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. James Sproat, the Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, Alexander Mitchell, James Boyd, James Grier, Andrew Hunter, William Schenck, Francis Peppard, Samuel Blair, Israel Evans, Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. John Ewing, Patrick Alison, and the Rev. Mr. Robert Davidson.

Of the New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, William McKennan, James Anderson, and John McCreary.

Of the Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Craighead, William Linn, Isaac Keith, Matthew Woods, and Robert Cooper.

Of the Presbytery of Lewes: The Rev. Mr. John Miller.

Of the Presbytery of Redstone: The Rev. Mr. James Dunlap.

Of the Presbytery of Orange: The Rev. James Edmunds.

Elders present: Mr. Benjamin Gale, Col. John Bayard, Messrs. Hosea Lawrence, Robert Porter, Robert Boggs, and Robert Patterson.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones, the Rev. Drs. John Rodgers, and Hugh Knox, the Rev. Messrs. Simon Horton, Aaron Richards, John Moffatt, Abner Brush, Benjamin Woodruff, Joseph Treat, Azel Roe, Jedidiah Chapman, John Close, Jacob Vanarsdalen, William Woodhull, Matthias Burnet, Andrew King, John Joline, and the Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon and Samuel Smith, the Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Israel Read, John Hannah, John Woodhull, Samuel Kennedy, John Warford, Thomas Smith, and Philip Stockton.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Watt, Daniel McCalla, George Faitout, Robert Keith and William Tennent.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Elder, John Simonton, and Robert McMordie.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Joseph Montgomery, Thomas Read, Thomas Smith, James Finley, John Finley, Nathaniel Semple, James F. Armstrong, William Smith, James Latta.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Samuel Thompson, John Hoge, James Hunt, Hugh Magill, James Martin, Colin McFarquar, Amos Thompson, John Slemmons, James Lang, John King, Hugh Vance, John Black, John McKnight, David Beard, John Linn, Samuel Waugh, Joseph Henderson, Stephen Balch, and Samuel Dougal.

Of the Presbytery of Lewes: The Rev. Matthew Wilson, Jacob Kerr, Alexander Huston, John Rankin, Samuel McMasters.

Of the Presbytery of Redstone: The Rev. Messrs. John McMillan, James Power, Joseph Smith, Thaddeus Dodd, John Clark.

Of the Presbytery of Orange: The Rev. Messrs. Joseph Alexander, Robert Archibald, David Barr, David Caldwell, John Casson, Francis Cummings, Thomas Craighead, James Frazier, James Hall, John Harris, Thomas Hill, Thomas McCall, Samuel McCorkle, James McKee, Henry Pattillo, Thomas Rees, John Simpson, James Templeton, Daniel Thatcher.

The whole Presbyteries of Hanover, Dutchess, and Suffolk.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. John McCreary, the moderator of last year, with a sermon from Jeremiah iii. 22.

The Rev. Jonathan Elmer was chosen moderator, Messrs. William Linn, and Nathaniel Irwin, clerks.

The members who were absent from last Synod, and are present now, gave their reasons of absence, which were satisfactory.

The Rev. Messrs. Nathan Kerr, James Boyd, Robert Davidson, John McCreary, Isaac Keith, James Dunlap, and James Edmunds, with Col. Bayard, Messrs. Robert Porter, Benjamin Gale, and Robert Patterson, elders, were appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment, as occasion may require.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning.

Dr. Alison and Mr. Keith are appointed a committee to examine the Orange Presbytery book.

Mr. Craighead and Mr. Cooper were appointed a committee to examine the New Castle Presbytery book.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Duffield to examine the Donegal Presbytery book.

The Rev. Mr. James Finley sent in his reasons for dissenting from judgment of last Synod, respecting a certain Anthony Dushane, and Eliza, his wife, which were ordered to be inserted. They are as follows:

"The subscriber begs the following may be inserted, as containing his reasons for protesting against the judgment formed by the Synod, the year 1783, upon a review of the judgment or judgments formed the preceding year, respecting Anthony Dushane and his supposed wife. The reasons are:

"1st. That although this year's judgment differs from the judgment of the preceding year, in words, yet the substance is nearly the same; the first year's judgment allows the above said persons to be admitted to privileges, notwithstanding their marriage, the second does the same; the former cautions against such marriages purely because offensive to many, the latter does the same, and goes no further than to say that marriages, contrary to the prohibitions in Leviticus, are imprudent and unseasonable, many in our church being offended at them, and they are offended for a reason very different from that given by the Synod. The last of the former judgments, by implication, reproves persons guilty of such marriages, for it blames them as acting imprudently, this year's goes little further; for it only requires them to be rebuked, and that at the discretion of the session, which may be done very privately, and it neither requires them to confess their fault nor forsake it.

"2dly. This year's judgment appears to be worse than that of the last, for the former, however unsoundly intended, yet was more safely worded; for they say nothing about the persons cohabiting for the future, but only respect the marriage, which is a crime, that upon confessing and then forsaking the marriage bed, ought to be passed over, and had this been added, the judgment would have been very vindicable; but this year's judgment allows them to cohabit, which is the crime directly forbidden by Almighty God; so that hereby the Synod allow them to continue in the constant violation of a moral negative precept. Therefore, since there is such an agreement, and the last judgment worse than the former, I firmly adhere to the reasons given in my first

protest as applicable here. I would add, that the Synod has treated with disregard the petitions of many worthy persons, who begged, that if the Synod should confirm their former judgment, they would let them know their reasons for so doing, which I think is not done. The only thing like it is their saying in the minute that some things may be done very imprudently and unseasonably, which when done ought not to be annulled, which nobody doubts; but the petitioners expected a proof that this was a thing of that nature, and to have been instructed in it. Upon the whole, although I desire not to promote uneasiness, yet knowing it to be my duty to testify against the declensions and dangerous innovations in our church, I am obliged by conscience to act as I do in this, and may go further, be offended who will.

"JAMES FINLEY."

Adjourned till to-morrow morning nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met.

Mr. Peppard obtained leave of absence from the remainder of the sessions.

The Rev. John Linn is now come, his reasons for absence from several former meetings of Synod, and not attending sooner at this, sustained.

The Rev. Dr. McWhorter and the Rev. Dr. Rodgers are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

Whereas, the Synod last year recommended it to their members to make collections for the purpose of buying Bibles of Mr. Aitken's impression, to be distributed among the poor: And as it appears that that recommendation has not been fully executed, the Synod now renew the order, and earnestly recommend it to those who have yet done nothing in that business, to do every thing in their power to promote so good a design, either by purchases in the said impression, or any other they may prefer. The Synod further order the several Presbyteries to pay a special attention to this matter, and that the clerk write to the Presbyteries that are not represented in the Synod, on the same subject.

The Synod proceeded to receive the reports of the several Presbyteries, when the Presbytery of New York reported, that they have re-inserted the name of the Rev. William Woodhull in their records, agreeably to the order of last Synod; and that they have installed the Rev. Alexander Miller to the pastoral charge of the congregation of South Hanover, since the last Synod.

The First Presbytery of Philadelphia report, that they have ordained Mr. Simeon Hyde to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him in the congregation of Deerfield, and that he has been removed by death; they further report, that they have received the Rev. Mr. Francis Peppard from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and dismissed the Rev. William Hollingshead in consequence of his having accepted an invitation from a congregation in Charlestown, South Carolina, all since the last session of Synod.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that the Rev. Samuel Eakin has been removed by death since last Synod.

The Presbytery of Donegal reported, that they have dismissed Mr. William Boyd, a licensed candidate under their care, that he may put himself under the care of New Brunswick Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Orange reported, that they have since their last report to Synod, ordained Mr. David Barr, and installed him in the congregation of Sandy river; that they have ordained Mr. Francis Cummings, and installed him in the congregation of Bethel; and also ordained Mr. James McKee, and installed him in the congregation of Steel Creek; that they have licensed Messrs. Robert Finley, Robert Hall, Robert Mechlin, and James Newton, to preach the gospel, and that the Rev. Messrs. John Debow and James Campbell have been removed by death.

The Presbyteries of New Brunswick, Redstone, and the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, informed Synod that they have nothing to report.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met.

The Rev. Mr. McMordie is now come, his reasons for not coming sooner, sustained.

Dr. Spencer informed Synod that the Rev. David McClure, of New England, proposed a journey to the southward to preach the gospel, and that he was desirous of obtaining recommendations from Synod to the vacancies in that part of the church. The Synod direct the stated clerk, together with Mr. Duffield, to furnish him with such recommendations, provided he produces to them sufficient testimonials.

Mr. Boggs had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock . Concluded with prayer.

21st, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met.

Mr. Walker Smith, Dr. Spencer's elder, is now come.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The Synod having reason, by information given since their present meeting, to apprehend the churches under their care in imminent danger from ministers and licensed candidates of unsound principles coming among us, do hereby renew their former injunction to the respective Presbyteries within their bounds, relative to this matter, and do also strictly enjoin on every member of this body, under pain of censure, to be particularly careful in this respect. And the stated clerk of the Synod is hereby directed to furnish each of our Presbyteries with an attested copy of the said injunctions, together with a copy of this minute.

The Presbytery of Orange applied to the Synod for their advice respecting an irregular member of their body, cited to appear and neglecting to attend, or living at so great a distance that he cannot be cited. Ordered, that Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kerr be a committee to prepare and bring in a report on this affair in the afternoon.

The Presbytery of Orange represented to Synod that their numbers are so increased, and their bounds so extensive, as to render it very inconvenient for them to meet in one place. They, therefore, request the Synod to form a number of their members into a distinct Presbytery, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of South Carolina. The Synod grant their request, and order the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Alexander, Francis Cummings, James Edmunds, John Harris, Thomas Rees, and John Simpson, to be set off from the Orange Presbytery and formed into a Presbytery as aforesaid, and appoint their first meeting to be at the Wexaws, the second Tuesday of April next, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and the Rev. James Edmunds to preside in said meeting. The Synod further direct that the line that divides North and South Carolina be in future the line of separation between the Presbytery of Orange and the Presbytery of South Carolina.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Half-past three o'clock, P. M. Synod met.

The committee appointed to bring in a report this afternoon on the case committed to them, brought in one accordingly, which not being approved, the Synod adopted the following, viz: In answer to an application from the Orange Presbytery for advice in a particular case, which is expressly provided for in

the discipline of the Presbyterian Church, advised that they strictly conform themselves to its known rules in such cases provided.

The Rev. Dutch Classis of New Brunswick having expressed an uneasiness with regard to some members of the Presbyteries of New York and New Brunswick, it was moved that a committee of this Synod be appointed, conditionally, to meet with a committee expected to be appointed by the Dutch Synod, now meeting at New York, at a time and place to be fixed by them, in order to compromise, if possible, all subjects of difference existing between them, and to determine a line for their future conduct with regard to each other, and to enter into an amicable correspondence with the Dutch committee upon subjects of general utility and friendship between the churches.

The Synod upon the motion resolved, that Drs. Rodgers, McWhorter, Spencer, and Smith, and Messrs. Alexander Miller, J. Woodhull, and Israel Read, be a committee accordingly, to meet a committee of the Dutch Synod, for the above mentioned objects, at the time and place the said Synod may please to appoint; and that Dr. Rodgers be appointed to give timely notice to the above members, of the time and place of the meeting of the committees, as appointed by the Dutch Synod.

Agreed to pay the stated clerk twenty shillings for transcribing the minutes of this year; and to pay the janitor thirty shillings for his attendance on the present sessions.

Ordered, That Dr. Sproat draw upon the treasurer of Synod for the above sums.

Adjourned to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia, on the third Wednesday of May, 1785, at eleven o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

1785.

Philadelphia, May 18*th*, 1785.

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment, in the Second Presbyterian Church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Drs. John Rodgers, and Alexander McWhorter, and Rev. Messrs. Alexander Miller, and Jonathan Elmer.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, and Rev. Mr. John Woodhull.

Of the First Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Dr. James Sproat, and Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, James Boyd, William Mackay Tennent, William Schénck, George Faitout, and Nathaniel Irwin.

Of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, and Rev. Mr. Robert McMordie.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, John McCreary, John Carmichael, Thomas Read, James Anderson, Daniel Jones, and William Smith.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Cooper, James Martin, John Linn, Isaac Keith, and James Johnston.

Of the Presbytery of Lewes: The Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson, John Miller, and William Linn.

Elders: Messrs. Jacob Wikoff, William Falconer, John Pinkerton, Joseph Neely, the Hon. John Whitehill, and David McClure.

Absent: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Dr. Hugh Knox, the Rev. Messrs. Simon Horton, Timothy Jones, John Moffatt, Abner Brush, Benjamin Woodruff, Aaron Richards, Nathan Kerr, Azel Roe, Jedidiah Chapman, Jacob Vanarsdalen, William Woodhull, Matthias Burnet, John Joline, Andrew King, and John Close.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Samuel Kennedy, Israel Read, Thomas Smith, John Hanna, Philip Stockton, Joseph Rue, Peter Wilson, John Warford, James Armstrong, and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.

Of the First Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Francis Peppard, James Grier, James Watt, Daniel McCalla, Israel Evans, Andrew Hunter, and Samuel Blair.

Of the Second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Elder, and John Simonton, and Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, James Latta, Alexander Mitchell, Thomas Smyth, Nathaniel Semple, John Evans Finley, and George Luckey.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thompson, John Hoge, James Hunt, James Lang, John King, John Craighead, Hugh McGill, Amos Thompson, Hugh Vance, Thomas McFerrin, John Black, Colin McFarquhar, John Slemmons, Samuel Dougal, John McKnight, Joseph Henderson, Samuel Waugh, Stephen Balch, David Beard, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Jacob Kerr, John Rankin, Samuel McMasters, and Alexander Huston.

Of Hanover, Orange, Dutchess, Suffolk, Redstone, and the South Carolina Presbyteries, the whole of their members.

The Synod was opened by Mr. Elmer, the moderator of last year's meeting, by a sermon on Daniel xii. 3.

The Rev. Mr. Matthew Wilson was chosen moderator, and Mr. Duffield and Mr. Tennent clerks.

The Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, George Faitout, William Mackay Tennent, Thomas Read, William Smith, and James Martin, gave reasons for absence from last Synod, which were sustained.

The present moderator's reasons for absence from several past meetings of Synod, were sustained.

Ordered, That the clerks prepare against to-morrow morning, a draught of a letter to the Presbyteries of Hanover, Orange, Dutchess, and Suffolk, respecting their neglect of attending Synod, and urging their attendance in future.

The Rev. Dr. McWhorter, the Rev. Messrs. Woodhull, Boyd, McMordie, Thomas Read, Keith, and William Linn, with Messrs. Faulkner, and Whitehill, elders, were appointed a committee of overtures to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment.

Mr. Elmer and Mr. Tennent, were appointed a committee to examine the New Brunswick Presbytery book. Mr. John Miller and Mr. Woodhull, to examine the Second Philadelphia Presbytery book. Dr. Ewing and Mr. William Smith, to examine the Donegal Presbytery book. The books of the other Presbyteries have not been brought in.

Mr. Mitchel is now come, his reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

The Synod observing with great regret, that the recommendation of the year before last, and renewed last year, respecting a collection to provide a supply of Bibles for the poor, especially those on the frontiers, has, by some means, been greatly neglected, do again renew the said recommendation, and earnestly request the respective Presbyteries that have not attended thereto, to pay a special attention to this matter, and to send the money that may be collected to the committee formerly appointed, and to make report at our next meeting.

Mr. Mitchel was appointed a member of the committee to examine Donegal Presbytery book.

The Presbytery of New York reported, that they have, since our last, dismissed the Rev. Mr. Joseph Treat, in order to his joining the Presbytery of New Brunswick; and that they have taken under their care Messrs. John Burton, James Wilson, and John McDonald, candidates for the ministry from Scotland; Mr. Wilson's and Mr. McDonald's credentials were, according to the order of Synod respecting ministers and probationers from foreign parts, laid before the Synod and approved.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that the Rev. Dr. Spencer was removed by death the 27th of last December; and that they have, since our last, ordained to the work of the ministry, Messrs. Joseph Roe and Joseph Clark, *sine titulo*, agreeably to the liberty obtained last Synod; and have also ordained Mr. William Boyd to a charge, and Mr. Peter Wilson, *sine titulo*, in order to go on a mission, of whom Messrs. Clark and Boyd being present, took their seats as members.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, 19th day, nine o clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. Slemmons, McFarquhar, Armstrong, Warford, Dr. Alison and Dr. Smith are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained; as also Mr. Slemmons's and Mr. McFarquhar's reasons for not attending last year, and Mr. Warford's and Mr. Armstrong's for non-attendance for some years past.

Mr. Daniel Thatcher, of Orange Presbytery, is now come, his reasons for not attending for some years past, nor sooner at this meeting, were sustained.

The First Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that Mr. Robert Keith has been removed by death since our last; and that they have dismissed Mr. Mitchel in order to his joining the Presbytery of New Castle.

The Second Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that they have, since our last, dismissed Dr. Davidson, to take a charge in the bounds of Donegal Presbytery.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that they have, since our last, dismissed Mr. James Finley, to join the Presbytery of Redstone; and have ordained Mr. George Luckey to the work of the ministry, as pastor at Bethel; and have received Mr. Mitchel from the first Presbytery of Philadelphia; and have employed in their bounds the Rev. Mr. James Munro, an ordained minister from Scotland; and have taken under their care, Mr. Samuel Barr, a licensed candidate from the Presbytery of Derry, in Ireland; and that in consequence of Mr. Joseph Montgomery's having informed them, that through bodily indisposition he was incapable of officiating in the ministry, and having also accepted an office under the civil authority, they have left his name out of their records. Mr. Munro's credentials, agreeably to a former order respecting foreign ministers and probationers, were laid before the Synod and approved, in consequence whereof, Mr. Munro being present, took his seat in Synod as a member of that Presbytery. Mr. Barr's testimonials were also produced and approved.

The Presbytery of Donegal reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. James Johnson to the work of the ministry, as pastor at Kisahcoquillas; and dismissed Mr. William Linn to join the Lewistown Presbytery; and have received Dr. Robert Davidson from the second Presbytery of Philadelphia; and licensed Mr. Samuel Wilson to preach the gospel; and have also employed in their bounds the Rev. Mr. Matthew Stevens, an ordained minister from the Presbytery of Letterkenny, in Ireland; and that Mr. Woods, one of their members, was removed by death on the thirteenth of last September; Mr.

Stevens's testimonials were produced and approved, and he being present, took his seat in Synod as a member of that Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Lewestown reported, that Mr. Alexander Huston, one of their members, departed this life on the third of last January; and that they have, since our last, received Mr. William Linn from the Presbytery of Donegal.

A difficulty having arisen respecting Mr. Montgomery's name being left out of the records of New Castle Presbytery, for the reasons assigned in their report, Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. McWhorter, and Dr. Alison, were appointed a committee to consider that part of their report, and to prepare against to-morrow morning, a draught of a plan to direct the conduct of Presbyteries in such cases.

A recommendation of last Synod, respecting members of Presbyteries becoming contributors to the widows' fund, having been omitted in transcribing the minutes into the Synod book, was ordered now to be entered, and is as follows, viz:

"The corporation of the widows' fund represented to the Synod, that the benevolent purposes of their institution were likely to be frustrated through the delinquency of some ministers who have been formerly contributors, and have not been punctual in paying their annual rates; and by reason also of the young members of Synod, through the distracted state of public affairs, not having become contributors."

The Synod, after seriously considering said representation, agree to recommend it to all their members, that those who have not become contributors, should, as soon as possible, become such, and embrace the privileges offered them by the said corporation; and likewise, that those who are, or may be contributors, should be careful and punctual in their annual payments. It is, moreover, enjoined by the Synod on all their Presbyteries, that they be very exact in laying before every young minister whom they may settle, all the advantages of being a contributor to the said fund. And the Synod agree, yearly to inquire of the Presbyteries, when the reports from the same are given in, with respect to their diligence in recommending this matter to their young members. And it is likewise recommended to all the congregations, where they shall settle a minister, to be careful to encourage their minister to become a contributor to the said fund.

The committee appointed by the Synod last year, to meet with the committee of the Low Dutch Reformed Synod of New York and New Jersey, report, that they were disappointed of meeting by a mistake, and one of the members of the committee informing the Synod that some of the brethren of the Dutch Synod, and one of the members of the Associate Reformed Synod, had expressed a desire of some measures being taken for promoting a friendly intercourse between the three Synods, or laying a plan for some kind of union among them, whereby they might be enabled to unite their interests, and combine their efforts, for promoting the great cause of truth and vital religion; and at the same time giving it as their judgment, that such plan was practicable: The Synod were happy in finding such a disposition in the brethren of the above Synods, and cheerfully concur with them in thinking that such a measure is both desirable and practicable, and therefore appoint Drs. Witherspoon, Jones, Rodgers, McWhorter, Smith, Messrs. Martin, Duffield, Alexander Miller, Israel Read, John Woodhull, and Nathan Kerr, a committee to meet with such committees as may be appointed by the Low Dutch Synod now sitting in New York, and by the Associate Synod, to meet in that city next week, at such time and place as may be agreed upon, to confer with the brethren of said Synods on this important subject, and to concert such measures with them for the accomplishment of these great ends as they shall judge expedient, and report the same to the next meeting of this Synod.

The above committee are also to do what may be necessary on the business for which the committee first mentioned in this minute were appointed.

Ordered, That Dr. Rodgers give notice to the above committee of the time and place of their meeting.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

19th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Hunter and Mr. Grier are now come, their reasons for not attending sooner, sustained.

The clerks brought in, agreeably to the order of yesterday, a draught of a letter to be sent to the Presbyteries of Hanover, Orange, Suffolk, and Dutchess, which, after some amendments, was approved, and is as follows, viz:

"It is with great concern the Synod have observed, that for several years past, very few members have attended from some of our distant Presbyteries; and that some others have been entirely unrepresented in our meetings. They are very sensible that your great distance, and the difficulties of the times, have rendered an attendance very inconvenient; but they cannot refrain from expressing their apprehensions, lest, if such non-attendance continue, the members of the body may become entire strangers to each other, and the general interests of the churches under our care sustain damage, through want of proper information and joint counsel respecting the state of affairs in the various parts; and, therefore, most earnestly request, that, as the difficulties which may for some time past have greatly obstructed are now happily removed, you will endeavour to have some of your members at each of our meetings, who may afford information of the state of the churches, and report to you such measures as may be devised for the general good. The Synod wish also to suggest their fears, lest a habit of neglect should be insensibly introduced, to the weakening of each other's hands, the discouraging the comparatively few that attend, and the great injury, if not entirely mouldering away of the body; events, which they rest assured, you would by no means wish to take place, and will, therefore, they persuade themselves, endeavour, as far as in your power, to prevent. But should it at any time so happen, that it may not be in the power of any of your members to attend, (which it is hoped will be but very seldom the case, if due care be taken,) it will give the Synod great pleasure to hear from you by letter, of the state of your affairs, and the circumstances which shall have rendered it impracticable to attend. You will do us the justice to believe, that a sincere desire to promote your comfort and ours, and the prosperity of the churches committed to our common care, induces us thus earnestly to solicit your careful attention to this matter."

Ordered, That a copy of said letter, signed by the moderator in the name of the Synod, be sent to each of those Presbyteries.

The following question, referred to Synod by the Presbytery of Donegal for their decision, was brought in by the committee of overtures, viz:

"Whether, on full proof of adultery by one party, the Presbytery has a right to declare the marriage so far void as that the innocent party may marry again without being liable to church censure?"

And after some time spent in debating the case, it was moved and agreed, that each member should speak to the question in the order of the roll. After which the vote was put, and the question carried in the affirmative, by a small majority.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Samuel Doak, of Hanover Presbytery, is now come, his reasons for not attending for several years past, nor sooner now, were sustained.

No report has been made from Hanover Presbytery.

Mr. John Burton, who was reported by New York Presbytery to have been taken under their care, produced his testimonials, which were approved.

The committee appointed yesterday, on a part of the report of New Castle Presbytery, brought in a draught, which was read and approved, and is as follows, viz:

"The Synod disapprove of the conduct of the Presbytery of New Castle, in striking the name of Mr. Montgomery off their roll for the reasons given in their report, neither of which, nor both together, seem to be sufficient; and in future recommend to all Presbyteries, when any ministers under their inspection resign their charge, or discontinue the exercise of their office while they remain in the same bounds, to pass a regular judgment on the reasons given for such conduct; and continue their inspection of those who shall not have deserved to be deprived of the ministerial character, though they may be laid aside from immediate usefulness.

An application was made from the corporation of the widows' fund by a deputation from that body, requesting the Synod to urge such of their members as have become contributors to the said fund, to be punctual in their payments, that the benevolent designs of the fund may not be prevented; and to recommend it to such of their members, and especially those lately ordained, as have not become contributors and may yet be admitted, to apply as speedily as possible for that purpose, as the corporation have agreed that if the number of ministers contributing to the fund do not soon amount to a sufficiency for preserving the fund, they will be under the disagreeable necessity of admitting as many laymen as may be necessary to complete that number, at the same time fixing it as a rule to be invariably observed, to give a preference to ministers when any offer; reserving always to young ministers the privilege of becoming contributors.

The Synod agree to recommend, and do hereby recommend to all their members who have become contributors to the said fund, to observe the greatest punctuality in paying their annual rates, that the benevolent designs of the institution may not be prevented; and to such as have not already become contributors, and have it yet in their power, that they embrace without delay so favourable an opportunity of providing for their families after their decease. The Synod also earnestly recommend to their Presbyteries to represent to young men that may be under their care, the advantage of becoming contributors, and to endeavour to engage them thereto.

Dr. McWhorter obtained leave of absence for the remaining part of the sessions.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Doak laid before Synod an application, signed by Messrs. Hezekiah Balch, Charles Cummings, and Samuel Doak, members of Hanover Presbytery, requesting that that part of Hanover Presbytery lying south of New River, might be erected into a separate Presbytery, by the name of Abingdon Presbytery; to be bounded by New River, on the side next to Hanover Presbytery, and by the Apalachian Mountains on the side next to Orange Presbytery. A certificate of the concurrence of Hanover Presbytery with the above request being produced,

Resolved, That the Synod grant the request; and they do hereby constitute those members of Hanover Presbytery who are settled within the above described bounds to be a distinct Presbytery, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Abingdon, and appoint their first meeting to be held at Salem church, the first Tuesday of next August, and that Mr. Doak preside as moderator in the said meeting; and that they make report to the Synod at our next session.

Mr. Clark had leave to go home

On motion, ordered, that Dr. Sproat, Mr. Duffield, and Mr. Daniel Jones, be a committee to revise the records of Synod from its earliest meeting, and point out such inaccuracies and improprieties as may occur, and select the regulations made by Synod from time to time, that they may be transcribed into a book to be provided for that purpose, and lay the whole before Synod at their next meeting.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

21st day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An application was made from the Presbytery of New Castle for leave to ordain Mr. Barr, a licensed candidate under their care, in order that he may travel through the vacancies in the southern states, which was granted.

Mr. John Hiddleson, an ordained minister from the Presbytery of Belfast, in Ireland, produced his credentials to the Synod, and prayed to be received into this body as a member of New Castle Presbytery.

Ordered, That Dr. Witherspoon, Messrs. Robert Smith, John Miller, McFarquhar, Cooper, and Woodhull, be a committee to examine into the authenticity of the said credentials, and to enter into free conversation with the young gentleman, and to report their opinion upon the whole to the Synod on Monday morning.

Ordered, That the Synod books of the old Synods of New York and Philadelphia, before the union of the said Synods, as well as the Synod book of the united Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and all other necessary papers, be deposited in the hands of the stated clerk of the Synod, that it may be easy to have recourse to them on all occasions.

Mr. William McKee, an ordained minister from the Presbytery of Belfast, in Ireland, who had been received as a member of the first Presbytery of Philadelphia, produced his credentials to the Synod, agreeably to order, which being examined and approved, Mr. McKee took his seat in Synod as a member of said Presbytery.

An overture was brought in, in the following terms, viz:

"Whether in the present state of the church in America, and the scarcity of ministers to fill our numerous congregations, the Synod, or Presbyteries, ought therefore to relax, in any degree, in the literary qualifications required of intrants into the ministry?" And it was carried in the negative by a great majority.

An appeal was brought in by Mr. Francis Hindman, from a judgment of the Presbytery of Donegal, expressed in the following words, viz:

"Mr. Hindman having appealed from a judgment of the session of Hanover, because he was not regularly cited; because the session did not take before them the merits of the cause; because he considered them as his accusers; and because he was refused the privilege of introducing witnesses in his defence. The minutes of the session were read, and Mr. Hindman heard in support of his appeal, and, upon a full view of the whole, the Presbytery are of opinion, that the reasons of the appeal are entirely unsupported; that the proceedings of the session were regular, and their judgment well founded; and

therefore judge, that the said Francis Hindman, before he be admitted to the distinguishing privileges of the church, shall publicly acknowledge his fault in treating the Rev. Mr. Woods, a member of Presbytery, and Mrs. Woods, his wife, in an injurious, abusive, and insulting manner; profess his repentance for it, and be rebuked and admonished for the same in the presence of the congregation of Hanover on a Sabbath day after sermon.—Extract of the minutes of the Presbytery of Donegal.

JOSEPH HENDERSON, Presbytery clerk.

Mr. Hindman was called upon to produce to Synod the reasons of his appeal; after a long and full hearing of which, the hearing of the Presbytery in justification of their decision, was deferred till Monday morning.

Adjourned till Monday morning ten o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, Monday, ten o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to examine Mr. Hiddleson's credentials, and to converse with him, brought in their report in the following terms, viz. "Your committee report it as their opinion, that Mr. Hiddleson ought not, at present, to be annexed as a member, to any Presbytery belonging to your body; but that, if he choose, he may be committed to the care of some Presbytery, who may proceed with him as they may judge best, and make report to the Synod at their next meeting:" which was approved.

The affair of Mr. Hindman's appeal was resumed; and after the minutes of the session of Hanover were read, together with the judgment of the Presbytery on the affair, and the Presbytery were heard in their defence, as also Mr. Hindman's reply, the Synod proceeded to consider the matter, and after some time spent in debating on the case, the question was put to affirm or reverse the judgment of the Presbytery, and was carried to affirm it, by a very great majority.

Adjourned till four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, four o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A motion was made and seconded, that no person be admitted on trials as a candidate for the ministry, until he shall have employed two years at least in the study of Divinity, after his having passed the usual course of a liberal education; and after some time spent on the subject, the further consideration of it was deferred till our next meeting.

On motion, Ordered, That it be enjoined, and it is hereby enjoined, on every Presbytery to subject every candidate on trials for the ministry, to an accurate examination on the discipline of the Presbyterian Church.

On motion, Ordered, That Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Robert Smith, Dr. Alison, Dr. Smith, Messrs. Woodhull, Cooper, Latta, and Duffield, with the moderator, Mr. Wilson, be a committee to take into consideration the constitution of the church of Scotland, and other Protestant churches, and agreeably to the general principles of Presbyterian government, compile a system of general rules for the government of the Synod, and the several Presbyteries under their inspection, and the people in their communion, and to make report of their proceeding herein at the next meeting of Synod.

It was moved and seconded, that the Synodical clerk be required to transmit annually to each Presbytery belonging to the Synod, an attested copy of all general regulations of Synod, as well as of those that more immediately regard any Presbytery in particular, and that each Presbytery be required to enjoin on their clerk to furnish each member of the Presbytery with an authentic copy of the same, that by a general intelligence of the acts of the su-

preme judicature being thus communicated to all, the whole body may be brought to operate with concert and vigour, and that none may have ignorance as a plea for the neglect of duty. The consideration of this was deferred till our next meeting.

An overture was brought in, that for the better management of the churches under our care, this Synod be divided into three Synods, and that a General Synod, or Assembly, be constituted out of the whole. The Synod agree to enter on the consideration of this overture, on the first Friday after their next meeting, and appoint Dr. Smith to transmit a copy of this overture to such of the Presbyteries as are not at present represented in Synod, and earnestly urge their attendance at our next meeting.

The Synod considering the education of youth, and their being early instructed in just principles of religion, as one of the most useful means of promoting the influence of the gospel in our churches, Resolved, that it be enjoined on every Presbytery, in appointing supplies to their vacant congregations, to take order that every vacant congregation within their limits be carefully catechized at least once in the year, in the same manner as is required by the order of our church, in congregations supplied with regular pastors, and that the ministers appointed to this duty be required at the next meeting of the Presbytery, to render an account of their fidelity in this respect, and that the Presbyteries be required to render an account of their attention to this order at the next meeting of Synod.

Resolved, also, that it be enjoined on all congregations to pay a special regard to the good education of children, as being intimately connected with the interests of morality and religion; and that, as schools under bad masters, and a careless management, are seminaries of vice rather than of virtue, the session, corporation, or committee of every congregation, be required to endeavour to establish one or more schools in such place, or places, as shall be most convenient for the people; that they be particularly careful to procure able and virtuous teachers; that they make the erection and care of schools a part of their congregational business, and endeavour to induce the people to support them by contribution, being not only the most effectual, but, eventually, the cheapest way of supporting them; that the Presbyteries appoint particular members, or if possible committees, to go into vacant congregations to promote similar institutions; that the corporation, session, or committee of the congregation, visit the school, or schools, at least once in three months, to inquire into the conduct of the master, and the improvement of the children, and to observe particularly his care to instruct them, at least one day in the week, in the principles of religion; that the Presbyteries, in appointing ministers to supply vacant congregations, require it as an indispensable part of their duty, to visit at the same time the schools, and require at the next meeting of the Presbytery, an account of their fidelity in this respect, and of the state of the schools; and that, in these schools effectual provision be made for the education of the children of the poor; and that, at the visitations of the schools, one or two of the most ingenious and virtuous of the poor children be annually selected, in order to give them a more perfect education, and thereby qualify these ingenious charity scholars, to become afterwards useful instructors in our congregational schools.

A motion was made in the following terms, viz. "Whereas the nearest uniformity that is practicable in the external modes of Divine worship is to be desired, and the using different books of psalmody is matter of offence, not only to Presbyterians of different denominations, but also to many congregations under our care; it is queried, if the Synod might not choose out, and order some of their number to take the assistance of all the versions in our power, and compose for us a version more suitable to our circumstances and taste than any

we yet have; which, having been read, and seconded, after some conversation thereon, the question was put, whether to appoint a committee, or defer, and was carried by a small majority to appoint. Whereupon Dr. Alison, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Ewing, Mr. Blair, and Mr. Jones, were appointed a committee for that purpose, who are to make report of their diligence herein at our next meeting.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, (Tuesday,) nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Boyd, Schenck, Mitchell, Irwin, Grier, Jones, Monroe, Slemmons, and William Lynn, who have left the Synod without leave.)

New Brunswick Presbytery book was examined as far as to page 227, and approved, except a few inaccuracies of expression, and their appointing an exegesis in English.

The Second Philadelphia Presbytery book was examined as far as page 164, and approved, except some inaccuracies, and omitting on their records their inquiry into the religious character of a young man taken on trials for the work of the ministry.

Donegal Presbytery book was examined as far as page 325, and approved, except a few inaccuracies.

Dr. Sproat requested that he might be allowed to resign his office as stated clerk of the Synod, which was granted, and Mr. Duffield was appointed in his stead to take charge of the records of Synod, as their stated clerk.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in this city, at eleven of the clock, *ante meridiem.*

Concluded with prayer.

1786.

Philadelphia, May 17th, 1786, 11 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment, in the First Presbytery Church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Present: Of the Presbytery of New York: The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, the Rev. Messrs. Alexander Miller and William Lynn.

Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick: The Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, Joseph Rue, James Armstrong and Jospeh Clark.

Of the First Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Drs. James Sproat and George Duffield, Rev. Messrs. Francis Peppard, Samuel Blair, James Boyd, James Grier, William Mackey Tennent, George Faitout, Andrew Hunter, and William McKee.

Of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia: The Rev. Drs. John Ewing and Patrick Alison, and Rev. Messrs. John Simonton and Robert McMordie.

Of the Presbytery of New Castle: The Rev. Messrs. Robert Smith, James Latta, Nathaniel Welshard Semple, William Smith, and John Edwards Finley.

Of the Presbytery of Donegal: The Rev. Messrs. John Hoge, James Martin, John Lynn, Samuel Waugh, and James Johnston.

Of the Presbytery of Lewestown: The Rev. Messrs. Matthew Wilson and John Miller.

Of the Presbytery of Hanover: The Rev. Messrs. William Graham, John Blair Smith, Moses Hoge, and Samuel Carrick.

Of the Presbytery of Abingdon: The Rev. Mr. Samuel Houston.

With the following elders: Messrs. William Irwin, Kennet Hankerson, Isaac Snowden, Jacob Mulford, John Burling, Robert Taggart, John Whitehill, James Biggams, and James Mercer.

Absent: The whole of the Presbyteries of Dutchess and Suffolk.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. Timothy Jones, Hugh Knox, and Alexander McWhorter, and Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Elmer, Nathan Kerr, Azel Roe, Benjamin Woodruff, Aaron Richards, Jedidiah Chapman, William Woodhull, John Moffatt, John Close, Abner Brush, Jacob Vanarsdalen, Andrew King, John Joline, and John McDonald.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon and Samuel Stanhope Smith, and Rev. Messrs. John Guild, Samuel Kennedy, Israel Read, John Hannah, Thomas Smith, John Warford, Philip Stockton, Peter Wilson, and William Boyd.

Of the first Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Watt, William Schenck, Nathaniel Irwin, Daniel McCalla, and Israel Evans.

Of the second Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. John Elder.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, John McCreary, James Anderson, Thomas Smith, Thomas Read, Alexander Mitchel, Daniel Jones, George Luckey, and James Monroe.

Of Donegal Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, and Rev. Messrs. Samuel Thomson, Colin McFarquhar, John Slemmons, Amos Thompson, James Lang, James Hunt, John King, Robert Cooper, John Craighead, Hugh McGill, Hugh Vance, Thomas McFerren, Samuel Dougal, John Black, John McKnight, David Beard, Joseph Henderson, Stephen Balch, and Matthew Stephens.

Of Lewestown Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Jacob Kerr, John Rankin, and Samuel McMasters.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, John Brown, James Waddel, William Irwin, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, James McConnell, John Montgomery, William Wilson, Benjamin Irwin, John McCue, Samuel Shannon, Andrew McClure, and James Mitchel.

Of the Presbytery of Orange: The Rev. Messrs. Henry Patillo, David Caldwell, Samuel McCorkle, Robert Archibald, Thomas Craighead, John Casson, James McKee, David Barr, and Jacob Lake.

Of Redstone Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Clark, James Power, James Finley, Joseph Smith, John McMillan, Thaddeus Dodd, and James Dunlap.

Of Abingdon Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. David Roe, Charles Cummings, Hezekiah Balch, Samuel Doak, and Adam Rankin.

And the whole of the South Carolina Presbytery.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. Matthew Wilson, the last year's moderator, by a sermon on 1 Corinthians i. 17.

Mr. Alexander Miller was chosen moderator, and Messrs. William Tennent and William Lynn, clerks.

Mr. Roe was excused for not attending our last meeting.

Messrs. Francis Peppard, John Simonton, James Latta, John E. Finley, Moses Hoge, Samuel Waugh, William Graham, John B. Smith, and Samuel Carrick, gave reasons for their absence from last Synod, which were sustained.

Rev. Messrs. William Lynn, Clark, Blair, Simonton, Latta, Hoge, Wilson, Graham, Houston, with Messrs. Isaac Snowden, Robert Taggart, and John Whitehill, elders, were appointed a committee of overtures to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment.

The Presbytery of New York reported, that they had, since our last meet-

ing, licensed Mr. Joseph Lindly to preach the gospel, and ordained Mr. James Wilson to the work of the gospel ministry as co-pastor with Dr. Rodgers in New York, and Mr. McDonald to the work of the ministry in the city of Albany; that they had received Mr. William Lynn as a member with them on a dismission and testimonial from the Presbytery of Lewestown; that they had received Mr. James Glassbrook, lately from England, as a member of their Presbytery on proper testimonials; that they had dismissed Mr. Matthias Burnet from their body to join the association of the western district of Fairfield county, in the state of Connecticut; and that they had received Mr. James Wilson, an ordained minister from Scotland, on testimonials produced by him from the Presbytery of Irvine; Mr. Glassbrook's and Mr. Wilson's testimonials were laid before Synod and approved, and they being present took their seats.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that they had, since our last, licensed Messrs. Ashbel Green, Ira Condict, and Asa Dunham, to preach the gospel; and have received as a member of their body, the Rev. James Muir, of the Island of Bermudas.

The first Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that they had, since our last, licensed Mr. James Snodgrass and Mr. Nathan Grier, and had received the Rev. Mr. John Johnston from the Presbytery of Belfast, in Ireland; and that they had received the Rev. Mr. William Pickles, who had been ordained to the work of the ministry by a number of dissenting ministers in England.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, 18th day, at nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Messrs. McCreary, Keith, James Finley, and James Hait, being now come, gave their reasons for not attending sooner, which were sustained.

The testimonials of the Rev. Mr. John Johnston, and of the Rev. Mr. William Pickles, were laid before Synod and approved, they being present took their seats as members of this body.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that they had, since our last, ordained to the work of the ministry, Mr. John Burton; that Mr. John Carmichael had been removed by death upon the 15th of November last; that they discontinued Mr. Joseph Montgomery in their roll; and had dismissed Mr. James Armstrong to join the Presbytery of New Brunswick; that they had in consequence of permission obtained last year, ordained Mr. Barr, *sine titulo*, and no longer considered Mr. Andrew Wilson as being under their care. Mr. Burton and Mr. Barr being present took their seats.

The Presbytery of Donegal reported, that they had, since our last, admitted Mr. Hugh Morrison, a licensed candidate, from the Presbytery of Root, in Ireland, to preach in their bounds, but his testimonials are not here to lay before Synod; and had installed Mr. Matthew Stephens as pastor of the united congregation of Derry and Wayne, on Juniata.

The Presbytery of Hanover reported, that the Rev. Mr. James McConnel is a member of their Presbytery, though omitted in a report made by the Rev. Samuel I. Smith, in 1780; that they had ordained Messrs. Moses Hoge, John McCue, Samuel Houston, Samuel Carrick, Adam Rankin, Andrew McClure, James Mitchell, Samuel Shannon, and John D. Blair, to the work of the gospel ministry, to particular charges, since May, 1782; and that they have licensed Mr. William Mahan to preach the gospel. Mr. Hoge, Mr. Carrick, Mr. Houston, and Mr. Blair, being present, took their seats.

The Presbytery of Suffolk reported, by a letter, that since they were last represented in Synod, the Rev. Messrs. Ebenezer Prime, of Huntingdon, Syl-

vanus White, of Southampton, and Benjamin Talmage, of Brook Haven, had departed this life; that they had ordained Mr. Joshua Williams to the charge of the Church of Christ at Southampton, and Mr. Nathan Woodhull to the pastoral charge of the Church of Huntingdon.

Mr. Woodhull and Mr. Armstrong were appointed to examine the first Philadelphia Presbytery book, and Mr. John Lynn and Mr. Waugh to examine the Lewestown Presbytery book.

The testimonials of the Rev. Mr. James Thompson, late of the Presbytery of Dundee, in Scotland, were laid before Synod, and approved, whereupon he was admitted to join himself to any Presbytery belonging to this body as he may see meet, and, being invited, sat as a correspondent.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

18th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod finding that Mr. Treat had not joined the Presbytery of New Brunswick, agreeably to the design of his dismission from the Presbytery of New York, ordered, that the Presbytery of New Brunswick call upon Mr. Treat to give the reasons of his conduct, and take order accordingly.

The committee ordered at our last to revise the records of Synod, &c. reported, that they had not performed that business, the Synod therefore agreed that the order be renewed, except that instead of pointing out inaccuracies and improprieties, which was enjoined in the former order, an index be made of all the principal transactions contained in the records.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Friday, 19th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Thomas Read, Dr. Smith, Mr. McKennan, Mr. Nathan Kerr, Mr. Warford, Dr. Witherspoon, and Mr. William Boyd, being now come, gave reasons for not attending sooner, which were satisfactory.

Mr. John Pinkerton, Dr. Duffield's elder, is now come.

Agreeably to the order of the day, as stated in the minutes of the last year, the Synod proceeded to consider whether "this Synod shall be divided into three Synods, and that a General Synod, or Assembly, be constituted out of the whole."

On motion, Resolved, That instead of the words "into three Synods," the words "into three or more Synods," be adopted.

Mr. Anderson being now come, gave reasons for not attending sooner, which were sustained.

The following motion was made and seconded, viz: the Synod considering the number and extent of the churches under their care, and the inconvenience of the present mode of government by one Synod, resolved, that this Synod will establish, out of its own body, three or more subordinate Synods, out of which shall be composed a General Assembly, Synod, or Council, agreeably to a system hereafter to be adopted.

Upon the question being put, Will the Synod adopt the resolution aforesaid, or not? it was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. Pickles obtained leave of absence.

The following gentlemen were appointed to prepare and report a plan for the division of Synod into three or more Synods, viz: Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Smith, Dr. Duffield, Dr. Alison, Mr. Latta, Mr. Martin, Mr. Matthew Wilson, Mr. Graham, Mr. Houston, Mr. James Finley, and Mr. Hall.

Adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

10th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed by the Synod last year, to meet with the committees of the Low Dutch Reformed Synod of New York and New Jersey, and of the Associate Reformed Synod, made report of their proceedings, which is as follows, viz:

"Proceedings of the committees appointed by the Synod of the Low Dutch Reformed Church of New York and New Jersey, of the Presbyterian Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and of the Associate Reformed Synod, met at New York the 5th day of October, 1785.

"The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. David Telfair.

"The members present: Of the committee appointed by the Dutch Reformed Synod: Dr. John H. Livingston, the Rev. Messrs. J. K. Hardenbergh, — Romeyn, Solomon Freligh, and Dr. Westerlo. Elders: Messrs. Philip Nagle, Henry Kennedy, and William Schermerhorn.

"Of the committee appointed by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia: Drs. John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, Samuel Smith, the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Kerr, and John Woodhull.

"Of the committee of the Associate Reformed Synod: the Rev. Messrs. John Smith, David Telfair, John Mason, and Robert Annan.

"The Rev. David Telfair was chosen moderator, and Dr. Samuel Smith, and Mr. Solomon Freligh, were chosen clerks.

"A motion was made by Dr. Rodgers, and seconded by Mr. Hardenbergh, that the respective committees produce their commissions, which being produced and approved, were ordered to lie on the table.

"The respective committees communicated to each other in writing, or verbally, an explicit detail of the standards, both in regard of the doctrine and discipline observed in the respective churches they represent.

"On motion, a committee of two from each committee, was appointed to meet this evening, to converse on, and digest the several subjects to be laid before the Convention. The gentlemen appointed were Messrs. John K. Hardenbergh, Dr. Westerlo, Dr. McWhorter. Dr. Samuel Smith, Robert Annan, and John Smith.

"The Convention adjourned till to-morrow at five o'clock, P. M.

"*Thursday, five o'clock, P. M.*

"The Convention met, according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

"The Rev. Dr. Witherspoon appeared and took his seat.

"The committee of six made report of what had been digested and determined by them, in conformity with the spirit and intention of their commission, being as follows, viz:

"The inquiries proposed by the committee of the Dutch Church were read.

"The first contained a request to know what the formulas of doctrine and worship are, to which each of the Synods respectively adhere, and the mode in which they testify that adherence, and prevent or punish any departure from them. The answer, on the part of the Reformed Dutch Synod, was contained in the representation given in by their committee in writing, to the convention.

"On the part of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, it is contained in the representation given in by their committee, articles first and fifth, viz:

"Article 1st: The Synod of New York and Philadelphia adopt, according to the known and established meaning of the terms, the Westminster Confession of Faith as the confession of their faith, save that every candidate for the

gospel ministry is permitted to except against so much of the twenty-third chapter as gives authority to the civil magistrates in matters of religion. The Presbyterian Church in America considers the Church of Christ as a spiritual society, entirely distinct from the civil government, having a right to regulate their own ecclesiastical policy, independently of the interposition of the magistrate.

"The Synod also receives the directory for public worship and the form of church government recommended by the Westminster Assembly as in substance agreeable to the institutions of the New Testament. This mode of adoption we use, because we believe the general platform of our government to be agreeable to the sacred Scriptures; but we do not believe that God has been pleased so to reveal and enjoin every minute circumstance of ecclesiastic government and discipline as not to leave room for orthodox churches of Christ, in these minutiæ, to differ with charity from one another.

"Article 5th: The rules of our discipline and the form of process in our church judicatures, are contained in Pardovan's (alias Stewart's) collections in conjunction with the acts of our own Synod, the power of which, in matters purely ecclesiastical, we consider as equal to the power of any Synod or General Assembly in the world. Our church judicatures, like those in the church of Scotland, from which we derive our origin, are Church Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods, to which it is now in contemplation to add a National and General Assembly.

"On the part of the Associate Reformed Synod, the answer was given in a verbal representation, by the Rev. Mr. Mason, and is, in substance, very analogous to that made by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

"Resolved, That the formulas and standards adopted by the respective representations, are mutually satisfactory, and lay a sufficient basis for the fraternal correspondence and concord of the several Synods.

"To the second inquiry, whether the corresponding Synods, in order to lay the foundation of entire confidence in each other, were willing to give solemn and mutual assurances of their vigilance and fidelity in requiring of their ecclesiastical officers an explicit and unequivocal assent to their present formulas or standards of discipline and faith; and will take such measures as to them respectively shall seem most reasonable and effectual to secure the same fidelity and orthodoxy in all time to come; the answer was unanimously given in the affirmative.

"Resolved, That the nature of these assurances be left to be determined by the convention.

"The third inquiry was, whether the Synods will agree mutually to watch over each other's purity in doctrine and discipline, and whether they will agree mutually to receive complaints that may be made by either of the others against particular members of their respective bodies, who may be supposed to be departing from the faith, or from the exactness of their church discipline. Agreed in the affirmative, but that the mode shall be referred to the general convention.

"The fourth inquiry was, whether the Synods would mutually promise to introduce and maintain in their church the most exact discipline, according to their several standards, that the circumstances of the country and the spirit of the people will bear.

"Resolved, That this is an article of the utmost importance; and resolved, moreover, that it be recommended to the convention to consider of, and adopt, proper means for aiding the exercise of discipline by discouraging fugitives from it out of any of the churches; and especially by not receiving any persons to church membership without sufficient credentials of their good moral character

and orderly behaviour from the church to which they now immediately belong, or have lately belonged.

"The fifth inquiry relates to grievances or causes of complaint that may have arisen between the ministers or congregations of the respective Synods.

"Resolved, That they ought to be candidly heard, and the most speedy and effectual measures taken as far as possible to redress them.

"The sixth and last inquiry or proposition respects some mode of establishing a visible intercourse and permanent correspondence between the several Synods.

"Resolved, That this subject be referred to the consideration of the convention: but that it be recommended to the convention to endeavour to establish an annual convention of the three Synods, by their delegates, which may consist of at least three ministers and three elders from each, and that the general objects of this annual convention be, to strengthen each other's hands in the great work of the gospel ministry; to give, and to receive, mutual information of the state of religion within their respective churches; to consider of, and adopt, the most prudent means to prevent or remedy any causes of dissension that may happen to arise between our respective congregations, agreeably to the instructions that may be given by the respective Synods; and to concert measures for uniting our efforts to defend and promote the principles of the gospel, and oppose the progress of infidelity and error; and to adopt plans for effectually assisting the exercise of discipline in our churches, and encouraging each other in its execution; and for such other purposes as the convention may think proper.

"Resolved, To recommend that the first meeting of the above convention shall be held on the second Tuesday of October, 1786, at New York, and afterwards at such time and place as shall be appointed at the preceding convention.

"Which report being read and ordered to a second reading, was thereupon ordered to be read by paragraphs. Whereupon resolved, that the report of the committee be approved and adopted.

"With relation, however, to those matters referred by said committee to this convention, as being by them left undetermined,

"Resolved 1st. On the second inquiry, that the manner in which the Synods shall give a solemn pledge to each other of the formula of their faith which they have here openly professed, and of their strict attachment to the same, shall be by an act of each Synod, wherein an accurate recital of such formula shall be made, with a positive declaration, that it is their sincere determination before God always to abide by the same, for which purpose they honestly pledge themselves to the two other Synods; which declaration and promise shall be signed by the president or moderator of the Synod, and at the first convention to be formed by delegates from the respective Synods, be read and entered upon the records of the convention, and copies of all the declarations be transmitted to each Synod, and entered upon their respective records; which records shall remain a perpetual witness against either party who shall ever deviate therefrom. And also, that each Synod shall communicate by their respective delegates the form of testimonials or credentials given to their candidates, and of those to ordain ministers, which copies shall also be entered on the records of the respective Synods.

"2d. On the third inquiry, that we will mutually watch over each other's purity in doctrine and discipline, and be ready to receive complaints against any of our ministers upon these subjects, and that the mode in which such complaint shall be preferred and prosecuted, shall be either by individuals, who may prosecute in their own name, *cum periculo;* or by a classis, Presbytery, or Synod of a sister church, in which case it shall be taken up as a *fama*

clamosa, and prosecuted by the classis, Presbytery, or Synod, to which the offender or offenders may belong; and the whole proceedings on the subject shall be transmitted, properly authenticated by the moderator, the præses, the scribe, or the clerk, to the informing body for their satisfaction.

"3d. On the fourth inquiry, resolved, that in order to aid the exercise of discipline, and discourage fugitives from it, every Classis, Presbytery, or Synod, shall officially communicate to its neighbouring Presbytery, Classis, or Synod, the name or names of every minister or candidate subject to censure, either of a lesser or higher nature, after which such Presbytery, Classis, or Synod, shall be held to view, and treat such ministers or candidates as lying under ecclesiastical censure, to all intents and purposes as if they belonged to their own body, until such person or persons shall be regularly acquitted or restored by the judicatory who had inflicted such censure.

"4th. With reference to the fifth, relating to such grievances as may hereafter arise in congregations under the jurisdiction of the different corresponding Synods, it is determined that such differences shall be referred to the consideration of a future convention. But as it is possible that some contingencies may arise, which will render a call of the convention before the stated time of meeting necessary, so it is resolved, that a power be lodged in the moderator of the convention, with the consent of one member of the convention at least from each Synod, by circular letters to call an extraordinary convention, provided such a call be not more than once in one year.

"5th. The convention thought proper to amend the resolution of their committee, by agreeing to a biennial instead of an annual convention.

"On motion to ascertain and limit the powers of the convention in all times to come, resolved, that those powers shall be merely of counsel and advice, and that it shall on no account possess judiciary or executive authority, and every subject that shall come regularly before the convention, shall, after being properly digested, be referred to the respective Synods, together with the opinion of the convention, and the reasons on which it is founded, for their judiciary and ultimate decision.

"Agreed, that the convention shall, when met, set apart a certain portion of their time for social and fervent prayer to Almighty God, for his blessing on their counsels and the churches they represent; and that said convention, whenever circumstances appear to them to require public and general humiliation or thanksgiving, shall recommend to the corresponding Synods to set apart the same day to be observed throughout all their churches.

"Resolved, That Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Livingston, and Mr. Mason, be a committee to draw out three fair copies of the above minutes, in order that each of the corresponding Synods may be furnished with one.

"Concluded with prayer."

The consideration of the above report was deferred till to-morrow morning.

The Synod took into consideration the motion made last year, respecting the time to be employed in the study of divinity by such as design to offer themselves for the work of the ministry, previous to their being taken on trials; and considering the present circumstances of our churches, determined it in the negative.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

20th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the report of the committee to meet with the committees of the Low Dutch Reformed Synod of New York and New Jersey, and of the Associate Reformed Synod, resumed. It appears by the report of said com-

mittee, that they have conversed fully and freely with the brethren of the above Synods on the subject of an union with them, and the Synod approves their diligence and fidelity in this matter, and agree to appoint a committee to meet such delegates as may be appointed by the above Synods on this business, in the city of New York on the second Tuesday of October next.

Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Matthew Wilson, and Mr. Woodhull, were appointed a committee to draw up instructions to regulate the conduct of the delegation which may be appointed to meet the committees of the Low Dutch Reformed Synod of New York and New Jersey, and of the Associate Reformed Synod.

The committee appointed to consider of a plan for the division of the Synod, reported, that they had met and made some progress in the business, but that they were not yet prepared to lay their plan before Synod, and therefore requested, that they might have leave to meet again, which was granted.

On motion ordered, that Mr. John Smith be added to the committee appointed to consider of a plan for the division of the Synod.

On motion ordered, that Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. William Linn, and Mr. James Wilson, be a committee to select such parts of the proceedings of the present sessions of the Synod as they may judge will be of general advantage to the church, and report them to the Synod for their concurrence, that they may be printed.

The committee appointed to prepare a selection from the different versions of the psalms to be used in our churches, which might give more general satisfaction than any one version now used, report that they had paid attention to the affair but had not yet completed it.

Ordered, That the same committee be continued to carry into effect the business assigned them, and make report next Synod.

Adjourned till Monday next, (22d,) nine o'clock in the morning. Concluded with prayer.

Monday, 22d day, at nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. McDonald being now come gave reasons for not attending sooner, which were satisfactory.

The testimonials of Mr. Walter Monteith, a licensed candidate from the Presbytery of Dunbarton in Scotland, were laid before Synod by the Presbytery of New York and approved.

The committee appointed to prepare and report a draught of a plan for the division of the Synod into three or more Synods, brought in their report, which is as follows, viz:

"Your committee beg leave to report, that they conceive it proper, previously to the division of the Synod, to divide some of the Presbyteries which are now too extensive in their limits, and to new-model some others, so as to render them more convenient than they are at present; and, therefore, recommend to Synod to institute the following arrangement, viz:

"1st. That Abingdon Presbytery be divided into two Presbyteries, the one to be bounded by New River on the north and east, by the Apalachian Mountains on the south, and by Cumberland Mountain on the west, consisting of the Rev. Charles Cummings, Hezekiah Balch, John Casson, Samuel Doak, and Samuel Houston, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Abingdon, and to hold their first meeting agreeably to adjournment of the late Presbytery of Abingdon. The other to comprehend the district of Kentucky and the settlements on Cumberland River, consisting of the Rev. David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Adam Rankin, Andrew McClure, and James Crawford, to

be known by the name of the Presbytery of Transylvania, and to meet for the first time at Danville, in the district of Kentucky, on the third Tuesday of next October, the Rev. David Rice to preside, or in case of his absence, the senior minister present.

"2d. That the Presbytery of Hanover be divided into two Presbyteries, the one to be bounded by the Apalachian Mountains on the north-west, by the Presbytery of Orange on the south, by the Presbytery of Donegal on the north and east, and by the Chesapeake and Atlantic on the south-east, consisting of the Rev. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, James Waddel, William Irwin, John Blair Smith, James Mitchel, John D. Blair, and Daniel McCalla, to be known by the name of Hanover Presbytery, and to hold their first meeting at Hampden Sidney, in Prince Edwards county, on the third Tuesday of September next, the Rev. Richard Zanchy to preside, or in his absence the senior minister present. The other to be bounded by the Presbytery of Redstone and Carlisle on the North, by the south-eastern ridge of the Apalachian Mountains on the east and south, and by New River on the west, consisting of the Rev. John Brown, William Graham, Archibald Scott, James McConnel, Edward Crawford, Benjamin Irwin, John Montgomery, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, John McCue, Samuel Carrick, and Samuel Shannon, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Lexington, and to meet for the first time at Timber Ridge, in Rock Bridge county, on the last Tuesday of September next, the Rev. John Brown to preside, or in his absence the senior minister present.

"3d. That the Presbytery of Donegal be divided into two Presbyteries, one of which to consist of the Rev. John Slemmons, James Hunt, Stephen Balch, and Isaac Keith, with the Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison from the late second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the Rev. George Luckey from the Presbytery of New Castle, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Baltimore, and to meet for the first time in Baltimore town on the last Tuesday of October next, the Rev. Dr. Alison to preside, or in his absence the senior minister present. The other to consist of the Rev. Samuel Thompson, John Hoge, Hugh McGill, Robert Cooper, James Martin, James Lang, John Craighead, John King, Hugh Vance, Thomas McFerren, John McKnight, Dr. Robert Davidson, John Black, Samuel Dougall, John Lynn, David Beard, Samuel Waugh, Joseph Henderson, Matthew Stevens, and James Johnston, with the Rev. John Elder and Robert McMordie, from the late second Presbytery of Philadelphia, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Carlisle, and to hold their first meeting agreeably to the adjournment of the late Presbytery of Donegal.

"4th. That the Rev. Colin McFarquhar, late of the Presbytery of Donegal, be annexed to the Presbytery of New Castle.

"5th. That the distinction of first Presbytery and second Presbytery of Philadelphia, shall henceforth cease, and that the members of these two Presbyteries, except those that are annexed to the Presbyteries of Baltimore and Carlisle, be united into one Presbytery to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, to hold their first meeting on the third Tuesday of October next in the city of Philadelphia, and the Rev. Dr. Sproat to preside, or in his absence the senior minister present.

"Your committee beg leave further to report, that they conceive it will be most conducive to the interests of religion that this Synod be divided into four Synods, and therefore submit to the Synod the following plan for dividing the Synod of New York and Philadelphia into four distinct Synods, subordinate to a General Assembly to be constituted out of the whole.

"1st. That one of the said Synods shall consist of the Presbyteries of

Dutchess county, Suffolk, New York, and New Brunswick, to be known by the name of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

"2d. That another Synod shall consist of the Presbyteries of Philadelphia, Lewestown, New Castle, Baltimore, and Carlisle, to be known by the name of the Synod of Philadelphia.

"3d. That another Synod shall consist of the Presbyteries of Redstone, Hanover, Lexington, and Transylvania, to be known by the name of the Synod of Virginia.

"4th. That another Synod shall consist of the Presbyteries of Abingdon, Orange, and South Carolina, to be known by the name of the Synod of the Carolinas.

"5th. That out of the body of these Synods a General Assembly shall be constituted in the following manner, viz: That every Presbytery shall, at their last stated meeting preceding the meeting of the General Assembly, depute to the General Assembly commissioners in the following proportion; each Presbytery consisting of not more than six ministers shall send one minister and one elder; each Presbytery consisting of more than six ministers and not more than twelve, shall send two ministers and two elders, and so in the same proportion for every six ministers. And these commissioners or any fourteen of them, whereof seven to be ministers, being met on the day and at the place appointed, shall be competent to enter upon business. And the judicatory thus constituted, shall bear the style and title of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

At three o'clock, P. M. the Synod met Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed at our last meeting to compile a system of discipline and church government, brought in their report, part of which was read.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Dr. Rodgers and Mr. John Miller, who had leave to go home.)

The committee appointed to draw up instructions to regulate the conduct of the delegates, to meet with the delegates of the Low Dutch Reformed Synod of New York and New Jersey, and of the Associate Reformed Synod in convention in the city of New York in October next, laid them before Synod, which with some amendments were approved, and are as follows, viz:

"The delegates on the part of this Synod are to inform the convention that this body is about to divide itself into four Synods, subordinate to a General Assembly. That they have now under consideration a plan of church government and discipline, which it is hoped will, when completed, be sufficient to answer every query of the convention upon that head; and that the mutual assurances mentioned in the minutes of the last convention, may, as far as they respect this Synod, be made with much more propriety after the intended system is finished than at present.

"They are to assure the convention of the readiness and desire of this body in the mean time to unite, in a consistent manner, their influence with that of the other Synods, in order to promote the spiritual interest and best good of the whole. And the delegates from this Synod are to enter into a friendly conference with those of the other Synods, and in conjunction with them to concert such measures as shall appear best calculated to diffuse harmony and

brotherly love through the several churches, and promote the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom, and to make report of the whole to this Synod at their meeting in May next. On motion resolved, that the Rev. Drs. John Witherspoon, John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, Messrs. Israel Read, John Woodhull, Nathan Kerr, with the moderator, be appointed, and they are hereby appointed delegates on behalf of this Synod for the purposes above mentioned.

"On motion resolved, that the book of discipline and government be recommended to a committee to meet in the city of Philadelphia on the second Tuesday of September next, who shall have powers to digest such a system as they shall think to be accommodated to the state of the Presbyterian Church in America, that they shall procure three hundred copies to be printed and distributed to the several Presbyteries in proportion to the number of their members under the engagement of this Synod, to have the expense of printing and distribution reimbursed to the committee at their next meeting; and every Presbytery is hereby required to report, in writing, to the Synod at their next meeting, their observations on the said book of government and discipline."

The committee appointed to attend to the above business, were Drs. Witherspoon, McWhorter, Rodgers, Sproat, Duffield, Alison, and Ewing; Mr. Matthew Wilson, and Dr. Smith, with Isaac Snowden, Esquire, Mr. Robert Taggart, and Mr. John Pinkerton, elders.

The Synod being informed that several disorders and disagreeable circumstances have taken place in some of the churches in the western parts, especially within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon, to the great prejudice of the interest of religion in those parts, did appoint Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Scott, Mr. Moses Hoge, Mr. Francis Cummings, Mr. John Smith, and Mr. Vance, or a majority of them, with an elder to accompany each, as a committee, in the name of the Synod, to meet at Salem Church, on the waters of Nola Chucky, on the second Wednesday of October next, with power to them to call before them such persons concerned in these disturbances, as are members of, or under the authority of this Synod, to hear and consider what shall be represented to them, and take proof of disputed allegations, if necessary; to endeavour, with prudence and meekness, to accommodate differences; where this cannot be wholly effected, and matters appear to them to be ripe for decision, and they be unanimous, to give judgment; if not unanimous, that they cite all whom they think necessary, to appear before the Synod, or General Assembly, at the next meeting, to have the matter fully judged, only taking care in any case where proof is necessary, that it be taken upon the spot, that there may be no unnecessary delay of a final and effectual settlement. They are also empowered, if there appear to them any urgent, or very doubtful censures inflicted by any of the parties upon others, to suspend the execution till the meeting of the Synod, or General Assembly.

The members of the Presbytery of Abingdon are required by Synod to read the above appointment publicly in their congregations, at least four weeks before the meeting of the committee, and this reading shall be considered as a citation to all parties concerned, to appear; and if any fail to appear, the committee, however, shall proceed to take evidence as they shall see cause; and no evidence pretended to be produced afterwards, shall be admitted to invalidate the measures of the committee, or to prevent the decision of Synod.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The minutes of the Presbytery of Lewestown were reviewed by the committee appointed for that purpose, to page 122, who reported a number of omissions and inaccuracies upon their records, which appear to Synod to have been

occasioned by the tumultuous state of the country during the revolution, and the hasty manner in which they were obliged to transact business. Whereupon, the Synod gave orders, that that Presbytery in future have their minutes carefully revised before they are recorded.

The minutes of the First Presbytery of Philadelphia were reviewed by the committee appointed for that purpose, unto page 13, and were approved.

In consequence of an overture which was brought in, the Synod earnestly recommend to all the vacant congregations under their care, to meet together every Lord's day, at one or more places, for the purposes of prayer and praises, and reading the Holy Scriptures, together with the works of such approved divines as they may be able to procure, and that the elders be the persons who shall pray, and select the portions of Scripture and other books, to be read by any proper person whom they may appoint.

The Synod considering the education of youth, and their being early instructed in the principles of religion, as the most useful means of promoting the influence of the gospel in our churches, resolved, that it be enjoined on every Presbytery, in appointing supplies to their vacant congregations, to take order that every vacant congregation within their limits, be carefully catechized at least once in a year, in the same manner as is required by the order of our church in congregations supplied with regular pastors, and that the ministers appointed to this duty be required, at the next meeting of the Presbytery, to render an account of their fidelity in this respect, and that the Presbyteries be required to render an account of their attention to this order at the next meeting of Synod.

On motion made and seconded, Ordered, That every Presbytery take effectual measures to raise from each congregation under their care, whether supplied with a pastor or vacant, a collection, previous to the next meeting of Synod, for defraying the expenses of printing the public acts of Synod, and for printing and distributing the book of government and discipline, and for such other purposes as to the Synod shall seem proper, and that each Presbytery send said collections with some one of their members who shall attend Synod next year, and the Synod agree to render to the people an account of the disbursements.

In consequence of a request from the Presbytery of New York for some ministers, or probationers, to be sent to preach the gospel in their vacancies above Albany, the Synod appointed Mr. Burton to supply in those parts as much as he conveniently can through the ensuing summer, and recommended to Mr. Thompson to pay a visit to those vacancies for the same purpose, at such time as he may find most convenient.

The Synod proceeded to consider the report of the committee on a plan for dividing the Synod into three or more Synods, and adopted it so far as respects the arranging of Presbyteries; and the Synod do hereby establish the arrangement therein contained. The consideration of the remaining part of the report was deferred till our next stated meeting, at which time the several Presbyteries are desired to attend prepared to determine respecting it.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday, 24th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Semple, John Hoge, Latta, Martin, and Barr, who had leave to go home.)

On motion, Ordered, That each Presbytery lay before Synod next year, an accurate list which may be printed, of the names of their settled ministers, according to their seniority in the work of the ministry, with the places of

their residence; and also of the probationers, and vacant congregations under their care.

And in order to prevent irregularity, uncertainty, and waste of time, ordered, that each Presbytery, at the meeting immediately preceding the meeting of Synod, draw up their report in writing, and appoint a member to deliver it.

The Synod viewing, with serious concern, the decay of vital religion, and the prevalence of immorality, do hereby appoint the third Thursday of August next, to be observed as a day of solemn fasting, humiliation, and prayer, by all the churches under their care.

The following case of conscience from Donegal Presbytery, was overtured, viz: whether Christian masters, or mistresses, ought, in duty, to have such children baptized as are under their care, though born of parents not in the communion of any Christian church? Upon this overture Synod are of opinion that Christian masters and mistresses, whose religious professions and conduct are such as to give them a right to the ordinance of baptism for their own children, may and ought to dedicate the children of their household to God, in that ordinance, when they have no scruple of conscience to the contrary.

It was overtured, whether Christian slaves, having children at the entire direction of unchristian masters, and not having it in their power to instruct them in religion, are bound to have them baptized; and whether a gospel minister in this predicament ought to baptize them? and Synod determined the question in the affirmative.

It was moved and agreed, that each member present pay into the hand of Isaac Snowden, Esquire, his equal share to defray the expense of the present meeting of Synod, and that Mr. Snowden pay to the stated clerk of Synod, out of the money so deposited, the sum of three pounds, for his trouble in transcribing the minutes of this year; and to the janitor, three pounds five shillings, for his attendance on the present sessions; and that he also pay the printer for printing the acts and proceedings of the Synod, if he shall have sufficient in his hand for that purpose; and if the money in his hand shall not be sufficient, the Synod engage to make up the remainder at their next meeting.

Messrs. Francis Peppard, John Simonton, James Finley, James Boyd, James Anderson, James Grier, Thomas Read, and John Finley, having withdrawn from Synod without leave, resolved, that they be recorded as inattentive to their duty in that instance.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

As matters of the greatest importance are expected to come before the Synod at their next meeting, it is earnestly requested that all the members of Synod would be punctual in their attendance.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1787.

May 16*th*, 1787, 11 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment, in the Second Presbyterian Church, in the city of Philadelphia. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Dutchess County Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. John Davenport.

Of New York Presbytery: the Rev. Drs. John Rodgers, and Alexander

McWhorter, and Rev. Messrs. Jedidiah Chapman, Alexander Miller, James Wilson, and John McDonald.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, James F. Armstrong, Joseph Clark, and William Boyd.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: the Rev. Drs. James Sproat, George Duffield, and John Ewing, and Rev. Messrs. Samuel Blair, James Boyd, William Mackey Tennent, Nathaniel Irwin, Andrew Hunter, George Faitout, and John Johnston.

Of New Castle Presbytery: the Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, and Rev. Messrs. Colin McFarquhar, John McCreary, Alexander Mitchell, James Anderson, William Smith, James Munro, and John Burton.

Of Lewes Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. Samuel McMasters.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Craighead, John King, Hugh Vance, John Black, John McKnight, John Lynn, and Samuel Waugh.

Of Baltimore Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. Isaac Keith.

Of Redstone Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. James Finley, John McMillan, James Power, and Samuel Barr.

Of Lexington Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Montgomery, Moses Hoge, and Samuel Carrick.

Of Hanover Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. John Blair Smith.

Of South Carolina Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Simpson, James Templeton, and Francis Cummings.

Of Abingdon Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Hezekiah Balch, John Cosson, Samuel Doak, and Samuel Houston.

Elders: Mr. Abraham Vangelder, Col. John Bayard, Mr. John Pinkerton, Mr. Robert Taggart, Mr. Benjamin Snodgrass, Mr. William Boyd, and Dr. Thomas Henderson.

Absent: Of Dutchess County Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Solomon Mead, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills, Blackleach Burrit.

Of New York Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, D. D., Aaron Richards, Jonathan Elmer, John Moffat, Hugh Knox, D. D., Abner Brush, Benjamin Woodruff, Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, James Thompsou, John Close, William Woodhull, Jacob Vanarsdalen, William Schenck, John Joline, Andrew King, James Wilson, sen., James Glassbrook.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Guild, John Witherspoon, D. D., Israel Reed, Samuel Kennedy, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D., John Warford, Philip Stockton, Joseph Rue, Peter Wilson, Walter Monteith, James Muir.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, Francis Peppard, James Watt, William Pickles, James Grier, William McKee.

Of New Castle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, James Latta, Thomas Read, James Anderson, Thomas Smith, Daniel Jones, Nathaniel Semple, John E. Finley.

Of Lewes Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Miller, Matthew Wilson, D. D., Jacob Kerr, John Rankin.

Of Baltimore Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. James Hunt, John Slemmons, Patrick Alison, D. D., Stephen B. Balch.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Elder, John Hoge, Hugh McGill, Charles Nesbit, D. D., James Martin, Robert McMordie, Robert Cooper, James Lang, Thomas McFerrin, Robert Davidson, D. D., Samuel Dougal, David Bard, Joseph Henderson, Matthew Stevens, James Johnston.

Of Redstone Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Clark, Joseph Smith, Thaddeus Dod, James Dunlap.

Of Lexington Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Brown, William Graham,

James McConnell, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, Benjamin Irwin, William Wilson, John McCue.

Of Hanover Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, James Waddell, William Irwin, James Mitchell, John D. Blair.

Of Abingdon Presbytery: the Rev. Mr. Charles Cummings.

Of the Presbytery of South Carolina: the Rev. Messrs. James Edmonds, John Harris, Joseph Alexander, Thomas Reese, Thomas H. McCall, Robert Finley, Robert Hall, Robert Mechlin.

And the whole of the Presbyteries of Suffolk, Orange, and Transylvania.

The Synod was opened by the last year's moderator, with a sermon from Matthew xviii. 17.

Mr. Chapman was chosen moderator, and Mr. Armstrong and Mr. James Wilson, clerks.

Messrs. Davenport, Chapman, Irwin, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Munro, Mr. McFarquhar, Mr. King, Mr. Craighead, Mr. Vance, Mr. Black, Mr. McKnight, Mr. McMasters, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Casson, Mr. Power, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Balch, and Mr. Simpson, gave their reasons of absence from last Synod, which were sustained.

The following members were appointed a committee of overtures, to meet in this church, to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments, viz. Messrs. Davenport, McDonald, William Boyd, Irwin, Burton, McMasters, McKnight, Keith, Power, Montgomery, J. B. Smith, Simonton, and Balch, ministers, and Mr. Vangelder, Col. Bayard, Mr. Pinkerton, Mr. Taggart, Mr. Snodgrass, and Mr. Boyd, elders.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries bring in their respective reports to-morrow morning, in writing; and also a list of their members, according to their seniority in the ministry, with the names of the congregations in which they are settled, and also the names of the probationers and vacant congregations under their care, that the same may be printed.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that they had taken some steps in the affair respecting Mr. Treat, but were prevented from proceeding by his removal by death.

Mr. Burton's excuse for not visiting the congregations to the northward and westward of Albany, was sustained.

The fast day appointed by last Synod was observed in all the Presbyteries, except Dutchess County, Redstone, and South Carolina, which Presbyteries did not hear of the appointment till after the day was past.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 17*th*, 1787, *nine o'clock, A. M. the Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Messrs. Thomas Read, Nathaniel W. Semple, James Latta, Azel Roe, Joseph Rue, and John Slemmons, and also Col. James Mercer, Mr. Semple's elder, Dr. Bloomfield, Mr. Roe's elder, Mr. John Smith, Mr. Rue's elder, and Samuel Irwin, Mr. Tennent's elder, are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner, were sustained.

The testimonials of Mr. Hugh Morrison, a probationer from the Presbytery of Root, in the kingdom of Ireland, were presented by Carlisle Presbytery, and were sustained by the Synod.

It was moved and agreed, that each member of Synod do now pay into the hand of Col. Bayard, the sum of one quarter of a dollar, towards defraying the expense of the present meeting; which was accordingly done, amounting to £7 7*s.* 6*d.*

The Presbytery of Dutchess county reported, that the Rev. Mr. Samuel

Sacket had been removed by death since the last report was made to Synod; that the Rev. Mr. John Davenport had been received as a member of their body upon proper testimonials from the Presbytery of Suffolk, and installed paster at Bedford.

The Presbytery of New York reported, that the Rev. Mr. Simon Horton was removed by death on the tenth day of last May; that they had received as a member with them the Rev. Mr. James Thompson, agreeably to the order of last Synod, admitting him to join such Presbytery as he might see meet; that they had received the Rev. Mr. William Schenck, on proper testimonials from the Presbytery of Philadelphia; and that they had dismissed the Rev. Mr. William Lynn, in consequence of his having accepted a call from the Low Dutch Reformed Church of New York.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick reported, that they had ordained Mr. Walter Monteith to the work of the gospel ministry, at New Brunswick, on the sixth day of December last; and that they had dismissed Mr. Ashbel Green, a licensed candidate under their care, in order to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Mr. Monteith being present took his seat as a member.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia reported, that they had, since last Synod, dismissed the Rev. Mr. Israel Evans to take charge of a congregation at Weymouth, in Massachusetts, and the Rev. Mr. William Schenck to join the Presbytery of New York, and also Mr. Nathan Grier, a probationer, that he might put himself under the care of New Castle Presbytery, in consequence of his having accepted a call from Brandywine congregation, within their bounds; and that they had received Mr. Ashbel Green, a probationer from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and ordained him on the 15th instant, as copastor of the second Presbyterian church in this city, with the Rev. Dr. Sproat. Mr. Green being present took his seat as a member, and Isaac Snowden, Esq., his elder.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, that they had received Mr. Nathan Grier from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, as a candidate under their care, on proper testimonials from said Presbytery.

The Presbyteries of Lewes and Baltimore informed the Synod that they had no report to make.

The Presbytery of Carlisle reported, that they had received the Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit upon credentials from the Presbytery of Brechin, in Scotland; and that the Rev. Samuel Thompson was removed by death on the 29th day of April last.

The Presbytery of Redstone reported, that, since the last meeting of Synod, they had received the Rev. Samuel Barr, upon proper testimonials from New Castle Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Lexington reported, that they had dismissed Messrs. Crawford and Shannon, in consequence of their signifying their intentions to remove to Kentucky.

The Presbytery of Hanover reported, that they had dismissed the Rev. Daniel McCalla, in consequence of his having accepted a call from the congregation near Charleston, South Carolina.

The Presbytery of South Carolina reported, that pursuant to an order of Synod, the Presbytery of South Carolina met for the first time at the Waxhaws church on the 12th day of April, 1785, and that the Rev. Thomas H. McCaule and James Templeton, having produced regular dismissions from Orange Presbytery in order to join them, were accordingly received as members of that Presbytery; Messrs. Robert Finley, Robert Hall, and Robert Mecklin, late probationers under the care of Orange Presbytery, having produced regular dismissions from the same, in order to put themselves under the

care of this Presbytery, were received accordingly; that in June, 1785, they had ordained and installed Mr. Robert Finley pastor of the Waxhaws church; that in July they had ordained and installed Mr. Robert Hall pastor of the united churches of Upper Long Cane and Saluda; that on July 29th, they had ordained and installed Mr. Robert Mecklin pastor of the united churches of Lower Long Cane and Rocky River; and that at their second meeting, viz: on October 12th, 1785, they had cut off the Rev. Thomas Hill from membership with the same for contumacy.

The Presbytery of Abingdon reported, that they had licensed Mr. James Balch to preach the gospel.

Mr. Lucas Alricks, Mr. William Smith's elder, is now come.

The several Presbyteries gave in a list of their members, &c. agreeably to the order of yesterday.

Ordered, That the committee for revising the Synod book, procure said book to be rebound, and to add as much blank paper as they may judge necessary, and to call on Col. Bayard for the expenses thereof; and that they insert the index now given in when completely finished, and transcribe the selections when made agreeably to order of Synod.

Doctor Duffield and Mr. Blair, were appointed a committee to examine the Presbytery book of Dutchess county.

Mr. Latta and Mr. McCreary were appointed to examine New York Presbytery book.

Doctor McWhorter and Mr. Miller, were appointed to examine Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Mr. Black and Mr. King, were appointed to examine New Castle Presbytery book.

Mr. Woodhull and Mr. William Boyd were appointed to examine the South Carolina Presbytery book.

Doctors Rodgers and Smith, were appointed to examine Abingdon Presbytery book.

Dr. Duffield, Dr. Ewing, Col. Bayard, and Isaac Snowden, Esq'r. were appointed a committee to receive the collections made by the Presbyteries in the several congregations within their bounds, for defraying the expenses of printing the public acts of Synod, &c. agreeable to their order of last year, and to state accurately the moneys received from each Presbytery and congregation, and to inspect and settle the accounts of the treasurer, the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a plan of government and discipline, reported, that they had, agreeably to order, prepared a draught and distributed copies to the respective Presbyteries. Ordered, that the several Presbyteries bring in their observations on the said draught in the afternoon.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

May 17th, three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met agreeably to adjournment. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Rev. Mr. Simonton is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Ordered, That Drs. McWhorter and Duffield, and Mr. Thomas Read, be a committee to select such parts of the proceedings of the present sessions of the Synod as they may judge will be of general advantage to the church, and report them to the Synod for their concurrence, that they may be printed, and also to prepare for printing and report to Synod a list of the ministers, probationers, and congregations, belonging to the Synod, agreeably to the reports of the Presbyteries.

On inquiry being made whether the several Presbyteries had complied with the order of last year, respecting catechizing vacant congregations, it appeared that the Presbyteries of New York, New Brunswick, New Castle, Baltimore, and Carlisle, had complied therewith; that the Presbytery of Philadelphia had complied in part; that the Presbyteries of Lewes and Redstone had not complied; that Lexington had complied with it as far as their circumstances would admit; that Hanover and Abingdon found it impracticable; and that South Carolina Presbytery had not received the order in time to take any measures in the affair.

Resolved, That the order of last Synod, respecting the catechizing of all vacant congregations under their care, be a standing order of Synod.

A letter from the Presbytery of Suffolk addressed to the moderator of Synod, praying that the union between them and the Synod may be dissolved, was read. The Synod appointed Dr. McWhorter to bring in a draught of a letter in answer thereto, and that Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. Woodhull, Roe, and Davenport, be a committee to meet the Presbytery of Suffolk at Huntingdon, on the first Wednesday of next September at two o'clock, P. M., and that the Presbytery of Suffolk be desired, by timely notice, to meet with the committee, in order to enter into free and full conversation upon this subject, and the committee to make report at the next sessions of Synod.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer

May 18th, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Jacob Vanarsdalen and Dr. Alison are now come; their reasons for not coming sooner were sustained.

Doctor McWhorter, agreeably to order, brought in a draught of a letter to the Presbytery of Suffolk, which was approved, and ordered to be signed by the moderator and sent to that Presbytery, and is as follows:

"*To the Reverend the Presbytery of Suffolk County:*

"Reverend and dear Brethren:—We received a letter from you, dated April 11th, 1787, which both surprised and grieved us, by informing us 'that you think it needful that the union between you and us should be dissolved.' We are surprised that a matter of so great importance, as breaking the peace and unity of the church, should be so suddenly gone into, without our receiving any information of the matter in respect to any previous things leading to such an event. We declare that we have done nothing which we know of, that should be so much as matter of offence to you, much less a ground of withdrawment or separation. We have always supposed that you, as brethren with us, believed in the same general system of doctrine, discipline, worship, and church government, as the same is contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Directory. You inform us 'that your local situation renders it inconvenient to maintain the union.' This is the same that ever it was, when we took sweet counsel together, strengthened each other's hands in the advancement of the cause of our dear Redeemer, stood firm in opposition to the enemies of our religion, and greatly comforted and encouraged one another.

"You say 'that concurrence with the draught of the form of government and discipline for the Presbyterian Church in North America, is impracticable.' That is only a draught or overture for consideration and amendment, and we should have rejoiced much to have had your company and aid in pointing out those impracticabilities, and in altering, correcting, and completing the said draught. We apprehend there are no principles in it different from the

Westminster Directory, only the same rendered more explicit in some things, and more conformable to the state and circumstances of the Presbyterian Church in America.

"You likewise add, 'the churches in your limits will not comply therewith.' Perhaps those churches, from some cause unknown to us, may have hastily imbibed groundless prejudices, which by taking some pains with them, and by giving a proper explanation of the matter, might be readily removed. We are fully of opinion that the general principles in said draught contain the plan of church discipline and government revealed in the New Testament, and are conformable, (allowances being made for the differences in the states of civil society and local circumstances,) to the practices and usages of the best reformed churches.

"Wherefore, dearly beloved brethren, in the bowels of brotherly love, we entreat you to reconsider the resolution expressed in your letter.

"You well know that it is not a small thing to rend the seamless coat of Christ, or to be disjoined parts of that one body, his church. We are all members one of another; there should be no schism in the body, but we should comfort, encourage, and strengthen one another by the firmest union in our common Lord. We are Presbyterians, and we firmly believe the Presbyterian system of doctrine, discipline, and church government, to be nearer to the word of God than that of any other sect or denomination of Christians. Shall all other sects and parties be united among themselves for their support and increase, and Presbyterians divided and subdivided, so as to be the scorn of some and the prey of others? In order to testify to you the high sense we entertain of the importance of union in the Presbyterian body in America, we have appointed a committee, viz: The Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Roe, Mr. John Woodhull, and Mr. Davenport, to wait upon you to converse with you, and to endeavour to remove difficulties.

"Therefore, we request the moderator of your Presbytery to call the same together to meet our committee at Huntingdon on the first Wednesday in September for these purposes, at which time and place our committee are appointed to attend, that you may in a spirit of candour and love reconsider your resolution, and continue in a state of union with us, and that we may, by our united efforts, advance the kingdom of our glorious Redeemer, is the earnest prayer of your affectionate and grieved brethren.

"Signed by order of the Synod.

"JEDIDIAH CHAPMAN, Moderator.

"*Philadelphia, May* 18*th*, 1787."

Messrs. Irwin and Green were appointed to examine the Baltimore Presbytery book.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the draught of a plan of government, &c. The Presbytery of Baltimore gave in their remarks on said draught, which were read. The Synod then proceeded to consider the draught, paragraph by paragraph.

Doctor Witherspoon is now come, and his reasons for not coming sooner were sustained.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The consideration of the draught was resumed, and after having gone through several sections thereof,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 19th, 1787, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Except Mr. Irwin's elder, who is gone home through indisposition.

Mr. Watt and Mr. McKee having now come, their reasons for not coming sooner were sustained.

Ordered, to proceed in considering the draught, and after having gone through several sections,

Adjourned to nine o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

May 21st, 1787, nine o'clock, A. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Except Dr. Henderson, who had leave to go home.

Mr. John Warford and Mr. John Rankin having now come, their reasons for not coming sooner were sustained.

Ordered, to proceed in considering the draught, and made some progress.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met agreeable to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, to resume the consideration of the draught, and made some progress therein.

As the minds of the members appeared to be considerably divided respecting the proposed representation from vacant congregations, it was agreed to defer the consideration of that paragraph until the other parts of the draught shall have been considered.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

22d May, 1787, Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Longstreet, Dr. Witherspoon's elder, having come, took his seat.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Latta, were appointed a committee to prepare an overture respecting the setting apart of ruling elders and deacons to their respective offices.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught, and made some progress.

The testimonials of Mr. John Young, a probationer from the Presbytery of Irvine, in Scotland, accompanied with corroborating evidential letters, were laid before Synod, and approved, and he has leave to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of New York.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d May, 1787. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Samuel Smith and Mr. James Muir having now come, their reasons for not coming sooner were sustained.

Mr. Roe and Mr. Bloomfield had leave to go home.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught, and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. James Finley has gone home without leave.

An address from the corporation of the widows' fund was brought in and read, particularly stating the deficiency of a number of contributors to the fund in their annual payment, which prevents the corporation from paying the annuities to their widows; requesting the interposition of Synod with them, to procure a greater punctuality in their contributors, or the proposal of some plan, whereby the fund may be secured in receiving the annual rates stipulated by them; and also stating the distress which the want of this punctuality in the cases of the Rev. Mr. Huston and the Rev. Mr. Carmichael hath occasioned, whereby they were reduced to the disagreeable necessity of withholding the annuity from their families. The corporation were also heard in explaining at large for the satisfaction of the members of Synod, the fundamental principles of their institution, upon which they have proceeded in their determination in the case of the family of Mr. Carmichael. At the same time a petition from Mrs. Carmichael was brought in, requesting the interposition of the Synod with the corporation to procure for her the annuity which has been held from her by them.

Ordered, That these papers lie on the table.

It was moved and carried, that the form of process in Stewart of Pardovan's Collection be read and considered as a basis of deliberation, along with the draught.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24*th May*, 1787. *Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

Mr. Woodhull obtained leave of absence from Synod.

The Synod re-considered the vote of yesterday respecting Pardovan's Collection, when the former vote was agreed to.

Ordered, to proceed in considering the draught, &c., and made some progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met agreeably to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Longstreet obtained leave to go home.

The Synod did allow, and do hereby allow, that Dr. Watts's imitation of David's Psalms, as revised by Mr. Barlow, be sung in the churches and families under their care.

Ordered, to proceed in considering the draught, and concluded reading paragraph by paragraph.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

25*th May*, 1787. *Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Messrs. Vanarsdalen, Farquhar, Black, Lynn, Waugh, and Dr. Alison.)

Mr. Barr had leave to go home.

Ordered, To put off till the afternoon the further consideration of the draught of a plan of government and discipline, in order to inquire into certain disturbances which have taken place in the western parts of the church, and especially within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon; for the settlement of which a committee was appointed at the sessions of Synod, in 1786, to meet at Salem, in Nola Chuckey, last October.

Mr. Hoge, one of the committee, informed the Synod, that he was the only member who attended; the reasons given by the other members of that committee present in Synod for their not attending, were sustained.

The committee of overtures also reported a petition from several elders and members of the Presbyterian Church in Nola Chuckey, setting forth that they were in distressed circumstances, principally on account of some irregular proceedings of the Presbytery of Abingdon, and requesting the interposition of the Synod in the premises. Upon inquiring into the nature of the uneasiness subsisting in the churches there, as referred to in the petition, and confirmed by the minutes of last Synod, it appeared that the Presbytery of Abingdon was charged with having taken upon trial, and licensed, Mr. James Balch, under improper circumstances, and particularly while under suspension by Orange Presbytery; that some members of Abingdon Presbytery were also charged with having countenanced certain violent proceedings of a tumultuous mob, contrary to the ministerial and Christian character, and that several other irregularities in that district occasioned an interruption of the peace of the churches.

The Synod, upon a full and careful investigation of the subject, resolved, that the said James Balch, having been restored to the communion of the church by the Presbytery of Hanover, after a period of several years, upon a certificate exhibited to them from the Presbytery of Orange, became a proper candidate for presbyterial trials, and at his licensure, the Presbytery, then met according to adjournment, was competent to that business, and that, therefore, the proceedings of the Presbytery be sustained. With regard to the other subjects of difference existing within these bounds, inasmuch as several of the parties concerned were present, it was resolved, that Drs. Witherspoon, Rodgers, Sproat, Ewing, Duffield, McWhorter, and Messrs. Vangelder, Snowden, and Taggart, elders, should be a committee to meet in the afternoon, to endeavour to bring the aforesaid parties to an amicable compromise, and to lay the foundation, if possible, to prevent all disputes on the subjects alleged in future; and that the said committee make report to Synod on the result of their endeavours.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock. P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The committee appointed to review the Presbytery book of New York made report, and the book was approved to the one hundred and sixteenth page.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

26 *May*, 1787. *Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Messrs. Latta, Watt, Semple, and Mitchell.)

The committee appointed yesterday to converse with the brethren of Abingdon Presbytery, who were present, and to endeavour to accommodate the

matters of uneasiness among them, met agreeably to order, and report as follows:

"That they heard the Abingdon brethren more fully than they had been heard before Synod, and find one source of uneasiness in addition to what had been mentioned in their country, and among themselves, was about psalmody; and the committee, after hearing them fully, recommended to those brethren, in a spirit of Christian love, to forgive one another, and bury in oblivion all that had passed; and they readily and cheerfully complied with the recommendation, and in evidence of their peace and amity took each other by the right hand; and they promised forbearance towards each other in those matters wherein they had differed in judgment, and to encourage, strengthen, and support each other, in advancing the common cause of their Divine Redeemer. It gave your committee the highest pleasure to see these differences and dissensions terminated in so happy an issue, and they doubt not it will have a salutary influence upon the peace of the Church in those parts; and in order to accomplish this desirable end, that there may be peace and brotherly love among the people as well as the ministers, your committee propose the following resolutions, which the Synod adopted, and resolved accordingly:

"1st. That in respect to political differences in that part of the country which occasioned a mob or riot, the Synod highly disapprove of, and condemn all such tumultuous and riotous proceedings; but as it appears by a paper signed by a number who acknowledge themselves the authors of the tumult, and also from the testimony of Colonel Cook, that Mr. Balch had no hand in that affair, and that he did take some pains to restrain those unhappy proceedings from going so far as they did, therefore, all things considered, we do not think him blamable in that matter.

"2d. In respect to the psalmody; the Synod have allowed the use of the imitation of the Psalms of David for many years, to such congregations as choose them, and still allow of the same, but they are far from disapproving of Rouse's version, commonly called the Old Psalms, in those who were in the use of them and chose them, but are of opinion that either may be used by the churches, as each congregation may judge most for their peace and edification, and therefore highly disapprove of public, severe, and unchristian censures being passed upon either of the systems of psalmody, and recommend it to all ministers in those parts of the Church, to be more tender and charitable on these heads.

"3d. In regard to the Presbytery's excluding two elders from sitting in the judicature at a certain time, the Synod are of opinion, that the Presbytery had some support for so doing from common custom and usage, but that there was too scrupulous an exactness attended to in that matter, and hope that such events will be guarded against in future.

"4th. In respect to the letter addressed to Mr. Balch, through the medium of the press, and supposed to be written by the Rev. William Graham, of Rockbridge county, Virginia, the Synod look upon the same as very unchristian and unwarrantable treatment of a brother; and the Synod do order the Presbytery of Lexington to cite Mr. Graham before them, and make due inquiry whether he be the author, and into the reasons of his conduct in that matter, and censure or acquit him as the nature of the case may appear; and report their proceedings herein to the next Synod.

"Ordered, That the whole of the proceedings had upon the affairs of Abingdon Presbytery, both at last Synod and at the present sessions, be inserted in the Presbytery book of Abingdon, and that the ministers of that Presbytery read them from their pulpits."

Agreed to postpone the further consideration of the draught until Monday morning.

The committee appointed to review the Presbytery book of South Carolina made report, and the book was approved to the thirtieth page.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Abingdon made report, and the book was approved to the session held March 27th, 1787, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of New Castle made report, and the book was approved from the session held April 23d, 1782, to the session held August 13th, 1782, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the Baltimore Presbytery book made report, and the book was approved to the eighty-first page.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Philadelphia made report, and the book was approved to page fiftieth.

Mr. Doak obtained leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of Mr. Robert Aitken for Bibles was given in to the Synod, and it appearing that there was a balance due to him of eight pounds, ten shillings, and seven pence, Synod ordered their treasurer, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, to pay said balance.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Dutchess county reported, and the book was approved to the one hundred and tenth page.

The committee appointed to receive the collections made by Presbyteries made report, that they received—

From Dutchess county Presbytery,		£0	19	7
" New York	"	24	14	2
" New Brunswick	"	27	6	6
" Philadelphia	"	21	4	3
" New Castle	"	14	6	6
" Lewes	"	3	10	0
" Carlisle	"	20	15	1
" Baltimore	"	16	16	10
" Redstone	"	1	12	6
" Lexington	"	15	6	7
" Hanover	"	18	19	3
" South Carolina	"	0	0	0
" Orange	"	7	10	11
" Abingdon	"	0	0	0
Total sum,		£173	2	2

The Synod ordered a list of all the congregations to be printed, which have made collections, specifying the collections made by each of them.

The Synod considering that it will be necessary to print several pieces for the consideration of the churches, which are of the highest importance to them, agreed to appoint a collection to be made in all the congregations under their care, and do hereby order the respective Presbyteries to take order that this be put duly in execution, and to bring up their collections to next Synod.

Mr. Armstrong was added to the committee for preparing selections from the minutes, to be printed.

The following was brought in by the committee of overtures:

"The Creator of the world having made of one flesh all the children of men, it becomes them as members of the same family, to consult and promote each other's happiness. It is more especially the duty of those who maintain the rights of humanity, and who acknowledge and teach the obligations of Christianity, to use such means as are in their power to extend the blessings of equal freedom to every part of the human race.

"From a full conviction of these truths, and sensible that the rights of human nature are too well understood to admit of debate, Overtured, that the Synod of New York and Philadelphia recommend, in the warmest terms, to every member of their body, and to all the churches and families under their care, to do every thing in their power consistent with the rights of civil society, to promote the abolition of slavery, and the instruction of negroes, whether bond or free."

The consideration of the above overture was postponed until Monday, the 28th, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The committee appointed to settle the accounts of Dr. Witherspoon, the treasurer of the Synod, made report, that Dr. Witherspoon has not his vouchers on the spot, but is ready at any time to settle his accounts. The Synod finding it will be more convenient to have a treasurer living where Synod usually meets, appointed Isaac Snowden, Esquire, treasurer; and appointed him to settle with their late treasurer.

Drs. Smith, McWhorter, and Duffield, Messrs. Powers, Casson, Kerr, Simpson, John B. Smith, Templeton, and Balch, were appointed a committee to make arrangements to divide this Synod into three.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

28*th May*, 1787. *Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Messrs. Read, Smith, King, and McKnight.)

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Synod proceeded to the further consideration of the draught of a plan of government and discipline.

The affair of representation from vacant congregations was now resumed, and after considerable time spent thereon, the question was put, Shall it stand as in the draught? and was carried in the affirmative.

The Synod having gone through the consideration of the draught of a plan of government and discipline, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Wilson, junior, were appointed a committee to have a thousand copies thereof printed as now amended, and to distribute them among the Presbyteries for their consideration, and the consideration of the churches under their care.

The Synod took into consideration the last paragraph of the twentieth chapter of the Westminster Confession of Faith; the third paragraph of the twenty-third chapter; and the first paragraph of the thirty-first chapter; and having made some alterations, agreed that the said paragraphs, as now altered, be printed for consideration, together with the draught of a plan of government and discipline. The Synod also appointed the above named committee to revise the Westminster Directory for public worship, and to have it when thus revised, printed, together with the draught, for consideration. And the Synod agreed, that when the above proposed alterations in the Confession of Faith shall have been finally determined on by the body, and the Directory shall have been revised as above directed, and adopted by the Synod, the said Confession thus altered, and Directory thus revised and adopted, shall be styled, "The Confes-

sion of Faith, and Directory for public worship, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

It was agreed to reconsider the two votes passed last Saturday afternoon, the one ordering the list of the congregations which have made collections to be printed, and the other ordering new collections to be raised this year, and they were both reversed.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Balch and Irwin.)

Mr. Matthew Tate, a probationer, under the care of New Castle Presbytery, having an intention to take a journey through the southern states, and to be a considerable time absent, requested, that if it be consistent with the rules of this Synod, he may be allowed to be taken upon trials for ordination in the Presbytery to which he belongs, and ordained before he sets out. The Synod remitted the affair to the Presbytery of New Castle, with liberty to said Presbytery to do therein as they shall see cause.

The Synod taking into consideration the overture concerning slavery, transmitted by the committee of overtures last Saturday, came to the following judgment:

"The Synod of New York and Philadelphia do highly approve of the general principles in favour of universal liberty, that prevail in America, and the interest which many of the states have taken in promoting the abolition of slavery; yet, inasmuch as men introduced from a servile state to a participation of all the privileges of civil society, without a proper education, and without previous habits of industry, may be, in many respects, dangerous to the community, therefore they earnestly recommend it to all the members belonging to their communion, to give those persons who are at present held in servitude, such good education as to prepare them for the better enjoyment of freedom; and they moreover recommend that masters, wherever they find servants disposed to make a just improvement of the privilege, would give them a *peculium*, or grant them sufficient time and sufficient means of procuring their own liberty at a moderate rate, that thereby, they may be brought into society with those habits of industry that may render them useful citizens; and, finally, they recommend it to all their people to use the most prudent measures, consistent with the interest and the state of civil society, in the counties where they live, to procure eventually the final abolition of slavery in America."

Whereas, the doctrine of universal salvation and of the finite duration of hell torments, has been propagated by sundry persons who live in the United States of America, and the people under our care may possibly, from their occasional conversation with the propagators of such a dangerous opinion, be infected by the doctrine, the Synod take this opportunity to declare their utter abhorrence of such doctrines as they apprehend to be subversive of the fundamental principles of religion and morality, and therefore earnestly recommend it to all their Presbyteries and members to be watchful upon this subject, and to guard against the introduction of such tenets amongst our people.

The committee appointed to arrange this Synod into three, made report, and after considering their report, the Synod agreed that the arrangement of the Presbyteries under four Synods should, for the present, remain as determined last year.

Upon application from the Presbytery of New York, Mr. Warford and Mr.

Condit, were appointed by Synod to visit the vacancies in the bounds of that Presbytery.

Resolved, that the division of the Synod be postponed until next year, and that the Synod be then divided.

The committee appointed to meet committees from the Reformed Dutch Synod and the Associate Synod made report, and delivered the minutes of the convention of the committees of the three Synods which met in New York last fall, which were read.

Ordered, That the treasurer pay the sexton six pounds and two pence, for his attendance and other expenses.

Synod was sorry to observe that so many members had withdrawn without leave.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in this city at eleven o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1788.

Philadelphia, May 21*st*, 1788. *Eleven o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met, according to adjournment, in the First Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Suffolk Presbytery; The Rev. Mr. Nathan Woodhull.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, and Rev. Messrs. Jedidiah Chapman, and John McDonald.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, James F. Armstrong, William Boyd, and Walter Monteith.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. James Sproat, George Duffield, and John Ewing, and Rev. Messrs. Francis Peppard, Samuel Blair, James Boyd, William Mackey Tennent, Nathaniel Irwin, Andrew Hunter, and Ashbel Green.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Anderson, John Burton, and Nathan Grier.

Of Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. William McKee.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, and Rev. Messrs. James Martin, Robert Cooper, John Craighead, and John McKnight.

Of South Carolina Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. Robert Finley.

Elders: Mr. Eliphalet Chichester, Mr. Peter Ricker, Mr. David Foreman, Isaac Snowden, Esquire, Mr. Ferguson McIlvaine, Mr. Joseph McClane, Mr. Hugh McCulloch, Mr. Alexander Fullerton, and Mr. Hugh Barclay.

Absent—Of Suffolk Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Buel, Noah Westmore, Samson Occum, Benjamin Goldsmith, David Rose, Elam Potter, Joshua Hart, and Joshua Williams.

Of Dutchess County Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Solomon Mead, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills, Blackleach Burret, John Davenport.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones, and Rev. Messrs. Aaron Richards, Jonathan Elmer, Hugh Knox, D. D., Abner Brush, Benjamin Woodruff, Alexander McWhorter, D. D., Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, John Close, Alexander Miller, William Woodhull, Jacob Vanarsdalen, William Schenck, John Warford, John Joline, Andrew King, James Glassbrook.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, and Rev. Messrs. Israel Read, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, Samuel S. Smith, D. D., Philip Stockton, Joseph Rue, Joseph Clark, Peter Wilson, and James Muir.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, James Watt, and George Faitout.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, and Rev. Messrs. William McKennan, Colin McFarquhar, James Latta, John McCreary, Alexander Mitchel, Thomas Read, Thomas Smith, Daniel Jones, William R. Smith, Nathaniel W. Semple, James Munroe, and John E. Finley.

Of Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr John Miller, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wilson, and Rev. Messrs. Jacob Kerr, John Rankin and Samuel McMasters.

Of Baltimore Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. James Hunt, John Slemmons, Patrick Alison, D. D., Isaac S. Keith, Stephen Balch, and George Luckey.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Elder, John Hoge, Hugh McGill, Robert McMordie, James Lang, John King, Hugh Vance, Thomas McFerrin, Robert Davidson, D. D., John Black, Samuel Dougal, John Lynn, Samuel Waugh, David Beard, Joseph Henderson, Matthew Steven, James Johnston, and John Johnston.

Of Redstone Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. James Finley, John Clarke, Joseph Smith, John McMillan, James Power, Thaddeus Dod, James Dunlap, and Samuel Barr.

Of Lexington Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. John Brown, William Graham, James McConnel, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, John Montgomery, Benjamin Erwin, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, and John McCue.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, James Waddel, William Irvine, John Blair Smith, James Mitchel, and John D. Blair.

Of Orange Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Henry Patillo, David Caldwell, Samuel McCorkle, James Hall, Robert Archibald, James McKee, David Barr, Jacob Leake, and Daniel Thatcher.

Of Abingdon Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Charles Cummings, Hezekiah Balch, John Cosson, Samuel Doak, and Samuel Huston.

Of South Carolina Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Edmonds, John Harris, Joseph Alexander, John Simpson, Thomas Reese, Thomas H. McCall, James Templeton, Francis Cummings, Robert Hall, and Robert Mecklin.

Of Transylvania Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Adam Rankin, Andrew McClure, and James Crawford.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, the last year's moderator, with a sermon from Ephesians iv. 3, 4.

Mr. John Woodhull was chosen moderator, Mr. Armstrong was chosen clerk, and Mr. McDonald assistant clerk.

Messrs. Nathan Woodhull, Chapman, Monteith, Greene, Burton, McKee, Craighead, and Robert Finley, ministers, with Messrs. Reikhart, Snowden, Fullerton, McIlvaine, and McCulloch, elders, were appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning in writing; and also a list of their members and of the probationers and congregations under their care, agreeably to the order of last year.

Mr. Mitchell is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, were sustained.

The committee formerly appointed to revise the Synod book, and have it bound new, and to insert the index and selections, not having yet accomplished that business, were continued, and ordered to carry it into execution.

Testimonials of Mr. Marcus George, a probationer from the Presbytery of Londonderry, in Ireland, accompanied with such corroborating evidence as is in such cases required by Synod, were laid before the Synod and approved,

and leave was given to Mr. George to put himself under the care of any Presbytery he may choose in the bounds of the Synod.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer

Thursday, May 22d. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Rue and Dr. McWhorter were now come; their reasons for not attending sooner, were sustained.

Suffolk Presbytery reported, that they have ordained Mr. Thomas Russel to the work of the gospel ministry, and to the pastoral charge of Westhampton; that they have ordained Mr. Wait Cornwell, *sine titulo;* have licensed Mr. Asa Hillyer to preach the gospel; and received the Rev. Mr. Aaron Woolworth, ordained by a council; that they have dismissed the Rev. Joshua Hart from the pastoral charge of Smithtown; and that the Rev. Mr. James Brown was removed by death, May 9th, 1788.

New York Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Lemuel Fordham to the work of the gospel ministry, in a regular charge; that they have dismissed Mr. James Wilson, sen., in order to his settlement at Wilton, in South Carolina; and also Mr. James Wilson, jun., in consequence of his having accepted a call from a congregation in Charleston, South Carolina; that they have received Mr. John Warford from the New Brunswick Presbytery; and that Mr. James Thompson has withdrawn himself from them, and returned to Britain; and that Mr. John Moffat departed this life on the 22d of last April.

New Brunswick Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Ira Condict to the work of the gospel ministry, and in the pastoral charge of the congregations of Newton and Hardwick; and have also ordained Mr. Asa Dunham to the work of the gospel ministry, in the pastoral charge of the congregations of Oxford and Mount Bethel; that they have dismissed Mr. John Warford to join the Presbytery of New York; and that Mr. John Guild and Mr. Samuel Kennedy have departed this life since our last; the former on the tenth of last July. Mr. Condict being present took his seat in Synod.

Philadelphia Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, dismissed Mr. John Johnson, to join Carlisle Presbytery, and Mr. William McKee to join Lewes Presbytery; and also Mr. James Snodgrass, a probationer under their care, to put himself under the care of Carlisle Presbytery, in consequence of his having accepted a call to a congregation within their bounds; and that they have deposed Mr. William Pickles from the ministerial office.

New Castle Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Nathan Grier to the work of the gospel ministry, in Brandywine congregation, and have dismissed Mr. Matthew Tate, a probationer, to join such Presbytery as he may choose. Mr. Grier being present took his seat in Synod.

Carlisle Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. Samuel Wilson, in the pastoral charge of Big Spring congregation, and Mr. Hugh Morrison, in the pastoral charge of Sunbury, Northumberland-town and Buffalo Valley; and have received Mr. James Snodgrass, from Philadelphia Presbytery, and ordained him to the work of the gospel ministry, in the pastoral charge of Hanover congregation, and that they have to lay before Synod the testimonials of Mr. Joseph Caldwell, a probationer from the Presbytery of Root, in the kingdom of Ireland.

Mr. John D. Blair and Mr. Warford are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Mr. Cooper and Mr. Craighead were appointed a committee to examine the

Presbytery book of New Brunswick, and Dr. Rodgers and Mr. William Boyd to examine Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Ordered, That Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Duffield, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. McKnight, Mr. Finley, and Isaac Snowden, Esq., be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the last and present sessions of Synod, as they may judge will be of general advantage to the church, and also to prepare a list of the ministers, probationers, and congregations belonging to the Synod; distinguishing those congregations that have made collections, and specifying the sum raised by each, for the purpose of printing the draught of the form of government, &c., and for defraying other synodical expenses, and to report the whole, prepared for printing, to the Synod, for their concurrence, on Saturday morning.

The committee appointed to meet the Presbytery of Suffolk, on the subject of their letter, signifying a desire to withdraw from the Synod, reported that they met the Presbytery at the time and place fixed on by the Synod, and conversed the subject over with them, with the greatest freedom, candour, and amity, and that in consequence of said free and amicable conference, the Presbytery agreed to withdraw their request, as may more fully appear by the following minute of said Presbytery, viz:

"The Presbytery of Suffolk met at Brook Haven, April 8th, 1788, according to appointment; entered upon the consideration of the petition sent to the Reverend Synod of New York and Philadelphia, at their last sessions, requesting a dismission from their body; and, after deliberating on it, came to the following conclusion, viz., to withdraw the petition. And appointed the Rev. Messrs. Noah Wetmore and Nathan Woodhull, to attend the Reverend Synod at their next meeting at Philadelphia, and present this minute to the moderator of Synod, and transact any other business as may be found necessary by them as the representatives of this Presbytery. A true copy of the minute of Presbytery.

"Attested by DAVID ROSE, Clerk."

Ordered, That the appointment of the present treasurer to settle the accounts of the late treasurer be continued, and that he make report to Synod.

Mr. Warford has not complied with the order of last Synod, appointing him, at the request of New York Presbytery, to supply the vacancies within their bounds. Mr. Condict was prevented by want of health.

A petition from the Rev. Dr. Wilson, detained from Synod through bodily indisposition, respecting the draught of the form of government, &c., was presented and read. Ordered, that it lie on the table.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Carlisle laid before Synod the testimonials of Mr. Joseph Caldwell, a probationer from the Presbytery of Root, in the kingdom of Ireland, accompanied with the corroborating evidence required by Synod, which were approved, and the Presbytery were allowed to take him under their care.

Mr. Glassbrook is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Memorials from some members of Orangedale congregation, of New York Presbytery; from the united congregations of Slate Ridge, and Chanceford congregations, of Baltimore Presbytery; and from New Providence congregation, of Orange Presbytery, respecting the draught of the form of government, &c., were brought in and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Testimonials of Mr. Edward Conn, a probationer from the Presbytery of Temple Patrick, in Ireland, accompanied by such corroborating evidence as is required by Synod, were laid before Synod, by the Presbytery of Baltimore,

and were deemed satisfactory, but as Mr. Conn was not present, the Synod refer him to that Presbytery, and allow them to receive him, as a probationer, under their care, if, after free conversation with him, they shall find their way clear.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, (Friday,) nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, Mr. Thomas Read, Mr. Jacob Kerr, Mr. Templeton, and Dr. Scott, Mr. Monteith's elder, are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Agreeably to the order of the day, Synod proceeded to the consideration of a draught of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and having made considerable progress therein,

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Templeton was added to the committee appointed to select and prepare for printing, &c.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught of the form of government, &c., and went through several sections.

Mr. Nathan Grier and his elder had leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, (Saturday,) nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught, and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till nine o'clock on Monday. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A petition from the inhabitants of Norfolk in Virginia, of the Presbyterian persuasion, was presented and read, praying the Synod to take them under their care, and to appoint a minister of their body to supply them for one year, for which they promise to pay him one hundred and thirty pounds, specie, Virginia currency, to defray the necessary expenses of his journey, and to make every thing as agreeable to him as their circumstances will admit. In answer to which the Synod order Dr. Witherspoon to recommend to Mr. Muir, a member of New Brunswick Presbytery, to repair to Norfolk as soon as convenient, and to supply that people agreeably to their request.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught; and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An appeal from a judgment of Philadelphia Presbytery, by Mr. Samuel Blair, was brought in. Ordered, that it be taken into consideration at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Ordered, To proceed in the consideration of the draught; and also of the proposed amendments of the Confession of Faith, and having finished the same,

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, Tuesday, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Martin obtained leave to go home.

Agreeably to the order for the day, the Synod proceeded to consider Mr. Blair's appeal from a judgment of Philadelphia Presbytery, by which he conceives himself aggrieved, and prays that it may be rescinded or erased from the records, and after some debate on the subject,

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod resumed the consideration of Mr. Blair's appeal and request, and after a full and free deliberation on the subject, the question was put, "erase or not," and was carried in the negative by a large majority. And on further consideration of the subject, it was moved and seconded, and on the question being put was carried in the affirmative, and ordered, that the following resolution be entered on the register of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, viz:

"Though the Synod highly commend the zeal discovered by the Presbytery of Philadelphia for the preservation of the truth; yet, on considering the whole affair, they cannot approve of the form of their proceedings, which are irregular, both in making inquiry by private conversation in their Presbyterial capacity, and also in putting proceedings of that nature on record, and therefore remit to the Presbytery to commence a regular process if they shall find ground for it, and recommend it to Mr. Blair to give every reasonable satisfaction to his brethren, and not to injure his character by unnecessary reserve."

Dr. Scott obtained leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, Wednesday, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Peppard obtained leave to go home.

The Synod having fully considered the draught of the form of government and discipline, did, on a review of the whole, and hereby do ratify and adopt the same, as now altered and amended, as the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, and order the same to be considered and strictly observed as the rule of their proceedings, by all the inferior judicatories belonging to the body. And they order that a correct copy be printed, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, as now altered, be printed in full along with it, as making a part of the constitution.

Resolved, That the true intent and meaning of the above ratification by the Synod, is, that the Form of Government and Discipline and the Confession of Faith, as now ratified, is to continue to be our constitution and the confession of our faith and practice unalterable, unless two thirds of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly shall propose alterations or amendments, and such alterations or amendments shall be agreed to and enacted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Nathan Woodhull and his elder obtained leave to go home.

Ordered, To enter on the consideration of the draught of a directory for the worship of God, reported by the committee appointed for that purpose the last year, and made some progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught of a directory, and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

matters of uneasiness among them, met agreeably to order, and report as follows:

"That they heard the Abingdon brethren more fully than they had been heard before Synod, and find one source of uneasiness in addition to what had been mentioned in their country, and among themselves, was about psalmody; and the committee, after hearing them fully, recommended to those brethren, in a spirit of Christian love, to forgive one another, and bury in oblivion all that had passed; and they readily and cheerfully complied with the recommendation, and in evidence of their peace and amity took each other by the right hand; and they promised forbearance towards each other in those matters wherein they had differed in judgment, and to encourage, strengthen, and support each other, in advancing the common cause of their Divine Redeemer. It gave your committee the highest pleasure to see these differences and dissensions terminated in so happy an issue, and they doubt not it will have a salutary influence upon the peace of the Church in those parts; and in order to accomplish this desirable end, that there may be peace and brotherly love among the people as well as the ministers, your committee propose the following resolutions, which the Synod adopted, and resolved accordingly:

"1st. That in respect to political differences in that part of the country which occasioned a mob or riot, the Synod highly disapprove of, and condemn all such tumultuous and riotous proceedings; but as it appears by a paper signed by a number who acknowledge themselves the authors of the tumult, and also from the testimony of Colonel Cook, that Mr. Balch had no hand in that affair, and that he did take some pains to restrain those unhappy proceedings from going so far as they did, therefore, all things considered, we do not think him blamable in that matter.

"2d. In respect to the psalmody; the Synod have allowed the use of the imitation of the Psalms of David for many years, to such congregations as choose them, and still allow of the same, but they are far from disapproving of Rouse's version, commonly called the Old Psalms, in those who were in the use of them and chose them, but are of opinion that either may be used by the churches, as each congregation may judge most for their peace and edification, and therefore highly disapprove of public, severe, and unchristian censures being passed upon either of the systems of psalmody, and recommend it to all ministers in those parts of the Church, to be more tender and charitable on these heads.

"3d. In regard to the Presbytery's excluding two elders from sitting in the judicature at a certain time, the Synod are of opinion, that the Presbytery had some support for so doing from common custom and usage, but that there was too scrupulous an exactness attended to in that matter, and hope that such events will be guarded against in future.

"4th. In respect to the letter addressed to Mr. Balch, through the medium of the press, and supposed to be written by the Rev. William Graham, of Rockbridge county, Virginia, the Synod look upon the same as very unchristian and unwarrantable treatment of a brother; and the Synod do order the Presbytery of Lexington to cite Mr. Graham before them, and make due inquiry whether he be the author, and into the reasons of his conduct in that matter, and censure or acquit him as the nature of the case may appear; and report their proceedings herein to the next Synod.

"Ordered, That the whole of the proceedings had upon the affairs of Abingdon Presbytery, both at last Synod and at the present sessions, be inserted in the Presbytery book of Abingdon, and that the ministers of that Presbytery read them from their pulpits."

Agreed to postpone the further consideration of the draught until Monday morning.

The committee appointed to review the Presbytery book of South Carolina made report, and the book was approved to the thirtieth page.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Abingdon made report, and the book was approved to the session held March 27th, 1787, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of New Castle made report, and the book was approved from the session held April 23d, 1782, to the session held August 13th, 1782, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the Baltimore Presbytery book made report, and the book was approved to the eighty-first page.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Philadelphia made report, and the book was approved to page fiftieth.

Mr. Doak obtained leave to go home.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

The account of Mr. Robert Aitken for Bibles was given in to the Synod, and it appearing that there was a balance due to him of eight pounds, ten shillings, and seven pence, Synod ordered their treasurer, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, to pay said balance.

The committee appointed to examine the Presbytery book of Dutchess county reported, and the book was approved to the one hundred and tenth page.

The committee appointed to receive the collections made by Presbyteries made report, that they received—

From Dutchess county Presbytery,		£0	19	7
" New York	"	24	14	2
" New Brunswick	"	27	6	6
" Philadelphia	"	21	4	3
" New Castle	"	14	6	6
" Lewes	"	3	10	0
" Carlisle	"	20	15	1
" Baltimore	"	16	16	10
" Redstone	"	1	12	6
" Lexington	"	15	6	7
" Hanover	"	18	19	3
" South Carolina	"	0	0	0
" Orange	"	7	10	11
" Abingdon	"	0	0	0
Total sum,		£173	2	2

The Synod ordered a list of all the congregations to be printed, which have made collections, specifying the collections made by each of them.

The Synod considering that it will be necessary to print several pieces for the consideration of the churches, which are of the highest importance to them, agreed to appoint a collection to be made in all the congregations under their care, and do hereby order the respective Presbyteries to take order that this be put duly in execution, and to bring up their collections to next Synod.

Mr. Armstrong was added to the committee for preparing selections from the minutes, to be printed.

The following was brought in by the committee of overtures:

"The Creator of the world having made of one flesh all the children of men, it becomes them as members of the same family, to consult and promote each other's happiness. It is more especially the duty of those who maintain the rights of humanity, and who acknowledge and teach the obligations of Christianity, to use such means as are in their power to extend the blessings of equal freedom to every part of the human race.

"From a full conviction of these truths, and sensible that the rights of human nature are too well understood to admit of debate, Overtured, that the Synod of New York and Philadelphia recommend, in the warmest terms, to every member of their body, and to all the churches and families under their care, to do every thing in their power consistent with the rights of civil society, to promote the abolition of slavery, and the instruction of negroes, whether bond or free."

The consideration of the above overture was postponed until Monday, the 28th, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The committee appointed to settle the accounts of Dr. Witherspoon, the treasurer of the Synod, made report, that Dr. Witherspoon has not his vouchers on the spot, but is ready at any time to settle his accounts. The Synod finding it will be more convenient to have a treasurer living where Synod usually meets, appointed Isaac Snowden, Esquire, treasurer; and appointed him to settle with their late treasurer.

Drs. Smith, McWhorter, and Duffield, Messrs. Powers, Casson, Kerr, Simpson, John B. Smith, Templeton, and Balch, were appointed a committee to make arrangements to divide this Synod into three.

Adjourned till nine o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

28*th May*, 1787. *Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.*

(Except Messrs. Read, Smith, King, and McKnight.)

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Synod proceeded to the further consideration of the draught of a plan of government and discipline.

The affair of representation from vacant congregations was now resumed, and after considerable time spent thereon, the question was put, Shall it stand as in the draught? and was carried in the affirmative.

The Synod having gone through the consideration of the draught of a plan of government and discipline, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Wilson, junior, were appointed a committee to have a thousand copies thereof printed as now amended, and to distribute them among the Presbyteries for their consideration, and the consideration of the churches under their care.

The Synod took into consideration the last paragraph of the twentieth chapter of the Westminster Confession of Faith; the third paragraph of the twenty-third chapter; and the first paragraph of the thirty-first chapter; and having made some alterations, agreed that the said paragraphs, as now altered, be printed for consideration, together with the draught of a plan of government and discipline. The Synod also appointed the above named committee to revise the Westminster Directory for public worship, and to have it when thus revised, printed, together with the draught, for consideration. And the Synod agreed, that when the above proposed alterations in the Confession of Faith shall have been finally determined on by the body, and the Directory shall have been revised as above directed, and adopted by the Synod, the said Confession thus altered, and Directory thus revised and adopted, shall be styled, "The Confes-

sion of Faith, and Directory for public worship, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

It was agreed to reconsider the two votes passed last Saturday afternoon, the one ordering the list of the congregations which have made collections to be printed, and the other ordering new collections to be raised this year, and they were both reversed.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

Three o'clock, P. M. Synod met according to adjournment. Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Messrs. Balch and Irwin.)

Mr. Matthew Tate, a probationer, under the care of New Castle Presbytery, having an intention to take a journey through the southern states, and to be a considerable time absent, requested, that if it be consistent with the rules of this Synod, he may be allowed to be taken upon trials for ordination in the Presbytery to which he belongs, and ordained before he sets out. The Synod remitted the affair to the Presbytery of New Castle, with liberty to said Presbytery to do therein as they shall see cause.

The Synod taking into consideration the overture concerning slavery, transmitted by the committee of overtures last Saturday, came to the following judgment:

"The Synod of New York and Philadelphia do highly approve of the general principles in favour of universal liberty, that prevail in America, and the interest which many of the states have taken in promoting the abolition of slavery; yet, inasmuch as men introduced from a servile state to a participation of all the privileges of civil society, without a proper education, and without previous habits of industry, may be, in many respects, dangerous to the community, therefore they earnestly recommend it to all the members belonging to their communion, to give those persons who are at present held in servitude, such good education as to prepare them for the better enjoyment of freedom; and they moreover recommend that masters, wherever they find servants disposed to make a just improvement of the privilege, would give them a *peculium*, or grant them sufficient time and sufficient means of procuring their own liberty at a moderate rate, that thereby, they may be brought into society with those habits of industry that may render them useful citizens; and, finally, they recommend it to all their people to use the most prudent measures, consistent with the interest and the state of civil society, in the counties where they live, to procure eventually the final abolition of slavery in America."

Whereas, the doctrine of universal salvation and of the finite duration of hell torments, has been propagated by sundry persons who live in the United States of America, and the people under our care may possibly, from their occasional conversation with the propagators of such a dangerous opinion, be infected by the doctrine, the Synod take this opportunity to declare their utter abhorrence of such doctrines as they apprehend to be subversive of the fundamental principles of religion and morality, and therefore earnestly recommend it to all their Presbyteries and members to be watchful upon this subject, and to guard against the introduction of such tenets amongst our people.

The committee appointed to arrange this Synod into three, made report, and after considering their report, the Synod agreed that the arrangement of the Presbyteries under four Synods should, for the present, remain as determined last year.

Upon application from the Presbytery of New York, Mr. Warford and Mr.

Condit, were appointed by Synod to visit the vacancies in the bounds of that Presbytery.

Resolved, that the division of the Synod be postponed until next year, and that the Synod be then divided.

The committee appointed to meet committees from the Reformed Dutch Synod and the Associate Synod made report, and delivered the minutes of the convention of the committees of the three Synods which met in New York last fall, which were read.

Ordered, That the treasurer pay the sexton six pounds and two pence, for his attendance and other expenses.

Synod was sorry to observe that so many members had withdrawn without leave.

Adjourned till the third Wednesday of next May, to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in this city at eleven o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

1788.

Philadelphia, May 21*st*, 1788. *Eleven o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod of New York and Philadelphia met, according to adjournment, in the First Presbyterian church. *Ubi post preces sederunt*

Of Suffolk Presbytery; The Rev. Mr. Nathan Woodhull.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, and Rev. Messrs. Jedidiah Chapman, and John McDonald.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Woodhull, James F. Armstrong, William Boyd, and Walter Monteith.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Drs. James Sproat, George Duffield, and John Ewing, and Rev. Messrs. Francis Peppard, Samuel Blair, James Boyd, William Mackey Tennent, Nathaniel Irwin, Andrew Hunter, and Ashbel Green.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Anderson, John Burton, and Nathan Grier.

Of Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. William McKee.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, and Rev. Messrs. James Martin, Robert Cooper, John Craighead, and John McKnight.

Of South Carolina Presbytery: The Rev. Mr. Robert Finley.

Elders: Mr. Eliphalet Chichester, Mr. Peter Ricker, Mr. David Foreman, Isaac Snowden, Esquire, Mr. Ferguson McIlvaine, Mr. Joseph McClane, Mr. Hugh McCulloch, Mr. Alexander Fullerton, and Mr. Hugh Barclay.

Absent—Of Suffolk Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Buel, Noah Westmore, Samson Occum, Benjamin Goldsmith, David Rose, Elam Potter, Joshua Hart, and Joshua Williams.

Of Dutchess County Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Solomon Mead, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills, Blackleach Burret, John Davenport.

Of New York Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones, and Rev. Messrs. Aaron Richards, Jonathan Elmer, Hugh Knox, D. D., Abner Brush, Benjamin Woodruff, Alexander McWhorter, D. D., Azel Roe, Nathan Kerr, John Close, Alexander Miller, William Woodhull, Jacob Vanarsdalen, William Schenck, John Warford, John Joline, Andrew King, James Glassbrook.

Of New Brunswick Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, and Rev. Messrs. Israel Read, John Hanna, Thomas Smith, Samuel S. Smith, D. D., Philip Stockton, Joseph Rue, Joseph Clark, Peter Wilson, and James Muir.

Of Philadelphia Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. John Simonton, James Watt, and George Faitout.

Of New Castle Presbytery: The Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, and Rev. Messrs. William McKenman, Colin McFarquhar, James Latta, John McCreary, Alexander Mitchel, Thomas Read, Thomas Smith, Daniel Jones, William R. Smith, Nathaniel W. Semple, James Munroe, and John E. Finley.

Of Lewes Presbytery: The Rev. Mr John Miller, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wilson, and Rev. Messrs. Jacob Kerr, John Rankin and Samuel McMasters.

Of Baltimore Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. James Hunt, John Slemmons, Patrick Alison, D. D., Isaac S. Keith, Stephen Balch, and George Luckey.

Of Carlisle Presbytery: the Rev. Messrs. John Elder, John Hoge, Hugh McGill, Robert McMordie, James Lang, John King, Hugh Vance, Thomas McFerrin, Robert Davidson, D. D., John Black, Samuel Dougal, John Lynn, Samuel Waugh, David Beard, Joseph Henderson, Matthew Steven, James Johnston, and John Johnston.

Of Redstone Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. James Finley, John Clarke, Joseph Smith, John McMillan, James Power, Thaddeus Dod, James Dunlap, and Samuel Barr.

Of Lexington Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. John Brown, William Graham, James McConnel, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, John Montgomery, Benjamin Erwin, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, and John McCue.

Of Hanover Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. Richard Zanchy, John Todd, James Waddel, William Irvine, John Blair Smith, James Mitchel, and John D. Blair.

Of Orange Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Henry Patillo, David Caldwell, Samuel McCorkle, James Hall, Robert Archibald, James McKee, David Barr, Jacob Leake, and Daniel Thatcher.

Of Abingdon Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. Charles Cummings, Hezekiah Balch, John Cosson, Samuel Doak, and Samuel Huston.

Of South Carolina Presbytery: The Rev. Messrs. James Edmonds, John Harris, Joseph Alexander, John Simpson, Thomas Reese, Thomas H. McCall, James Templeton, Francis Cummings, Robert Hall, and Robert Mecklin.

Of Transylvania Presbytery: The whole, viz. The Rev. Messrs. David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Adam Rankin, Andrew McClure, and James Crawford.

The Synod was opened by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, the last year's moderator, with a sermon from Ephesians iv. 3, 4.

Mr. John Woodhull was chosen moderator, Mr. Armstrong was chosen clerk, and Mr. McDonald assistant clerk.

Messrs. Nathan Woodhull, Chapman, Monteith, Greene, Burton, McKee, Craighead, and Robert Finley, ministers, with Messrs. Reikhart, Snowden, Fullerton, McIlvaine, and McCulloch, elders, were appointed a committee of overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning, at six o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries bring in their reports to-morrow morning in writing; and also a list of their members and of the probationers and congregations under their care, agreeably to the order of last year.

Mr. Mitchell is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner, were sustained.

The committee formerly appointed to revise the Synod book, and have it bound new, and to insert the index and selections, not having yet accomplished that business, were continued, and ordered to carry it into execution.

Testimonials of Mr. Marcus George, a probationer from the Presbytery of Londonderry, in Ireland, accompanied with such corroborating evidence as is in such cases required by Synod, were laid before the Synod and approved,

and leave was given to Mr. George to put himself under the care of any Presbytery he may choose in the bounds of the Synod.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer

Thursday, May 22d. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Rue and Dr. McWhorter were now come; their reasons for not attending sooner, were sustained.

Suffolk Presbytery reported, that they have ordained Mr. Thomas Russel to the work of the gospel ministry, and to the pastoral charge of Westhampton; that they have ordained Mr. Wait Cornwell, *sine titulo;* have licensed Mr. Asa Hillyer to preach the gospel; and received the Rev. Mr. Aaron Woolworth, ordained by a council; that they have dismissed the Rev. Joshua Hart from the pastoral charge of Smithtown; and that the Rev. Mr. James Brown was removed by death, May 9th, 1788.

New York Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Lemuel Fordham to the work of the gospel ministry, in a regular charge; that they have dismissed Mr. James Wilson, sen., in order to his settlement at Wilton, in South Carolina; and also Mr. James Wilson, jun., in consequence of his having accepted a call from a congregation in Charleston, South Carolina; that they have received Mr. John Warford from the New Brunswick Presbytery; and that Mr. James Thompson has withdrawn himself from them, and returned to Britain; and that Mr. John Moffat departed this life on the 22d of last April.

New Brunswick Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Ira Condict to the work of the gospel ministry, and in the pastoral charge of the congregations of Newton and Hardwick; and have also ordained Mr. Asa Dunham to the work of the gospel ministry, in the pastoral charge of the congregations of Oxford and Mount Bethel; that they have dismissed Mr. John Warford to join the Presbytery of New York; and that Mr. John Guild and Mr. Samuel Kennedy have departed this life since our last; the former on the tenth of last July. Mr. Condict being present took his seat in Synod.

Philadelphia Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, dismissed Mr. John Johnson, to join Carlisle Presbytery, and Mr. William McKee to join Lewes Presbytery; and also Mr. James Snodgrass, a probationer under their care, to put himself under the care of Carlisle Presbytery, in consequence of his having accepted a call to a congregation within their bounds; and that they have deposed Mr. William Pickles from the ministerial office.

New Castle Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained Mr. Nathan Grier to the work of the gospel ministry, in Brandywine congregation, and have dismissed Mr. Matthew Tate, a probationer, to join such Presbytery as he may choose. Mr. Grier being present took his seat in Synod.

Carlisle Presbytery reported, that they have, since our last, ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. Samuel Wilson, in the pastoral charge of Big Spring congregation, and Mr. Hugh Morrison, in the pastoral charge of Sunbury, Northumberland-town and Buffalo Valley; and have received Mr. James Snodgrass, from Philadelphia Presbytery, and ordained him to the work of the gospel ministry, in the pastoral charge of Hanover congregation, and that they have to lay before Synod the testimonials of Mr. Joseph Caldwell, a probationer from the Presbytery of Root, in the kingdom of Ireland.

Mr. John D. Blair and Mr. Warford are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Mr. Cooper and Mr. Craighead were appointed a committee to examine the

Presbytery book of New Brunswick, and Dr. Rodgers and Mr. William Boyd to examine Philadelphia Presbytery book.

Ordered, That Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Duffield, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. McKnight, Mr. Finley, and Isaac Snowden, Esq., be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the last and present sessions of Synod, as they may judge will be of general advantage to the church, and also to prepare a list of the ministers, probationers, and congregations belonging to the Synod; distinguishing those congregations that have made collections, and specifying the sum raised by each, for the purpose of printing the draught of the form of government, &c., and for defraying other synodical expenses, and to report the whole, prepared for printing, to the Synod, for their concurrence, on Saturday morning.

The committee appointed to meet the Presbytery of Suffolk, on the subject of their letter, signifying a desire to withdraw from the Synod, reported that they met the Presbytery at the time and place fixed on by the Synod, and conversed the subject over with them, with the greatest freedom, candour, and amity, and that in consequence of said free and amicable conference, the Presbytery agreed to withdraw their request, as may more fully appear by the following minute of said Presbytery, viz:

"The Presbytery of Suffolk met at Brook Haven, April 8th, 1788, according to appointment; entered upon the consideration of the petition sent to the Reverend Synod of New York and Philadelphia, at their last sessions, requesting a dismission from their body; and, after deliberating on it, came to the following conclusion, viz., to withdraw the petition. And appointed the Rev. Messrs. Noah Wetmore and Nathan Woodhull, to attend the Reverend Synod at their next meeting at Philadelphia, and present this minute to the moderator of Synod, and transact any other business as may be found necessary by them as the representatives of this Presbytery. A true copy of the minute of Presbytery.

"Attested by DAVID ROSE, Clerk."

Ordered, That the appointment of the present treasurer to settle the accounts of the late treasurer be continued, and that he make report to Synod.

Mr. Warford has not complied with the order of last Synod, appointing him, at the request of New York Presbytery, to supply the vacancies within their bounds. Mr. Condict was prevented by want of health.

A petition from the Rev. Dr. Wilson, detained from Synod through bodily indisposition, respecting the draught of the form of government, &c., was presented and read. Ordered, that it lie on the table.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

22d day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Presbytery of Carlisle laid before Synod the testimonials of Mr. Joseph Caldwell, a probationer from the Presbytery of Root, in the kingdom of Ireland, accompanied with the corroborating evidence required by Synod, which were approved, and the Presbytery were allowed to take him under their care.

Mr. Glassbrook is now come; his reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Memorials from some members of Orangedale congregation, of New York Presbytery; from the united congregations of Slate Ridge, and Chanceford congregations, of Baltimore Presbytery; and from New Providence congregation, of Orange Presbytery, respecting the draught of the form of government, &c., were brought in and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Testimonials of Mr. Edward Conn, a probationer from the Presbytery of Temple Patrick, in Ireland, accompanied by such corroborating evidence as is required by Synod, were laid before Synod, by the Presbytery of Baltimore,

and were deemed satisfactory, but as Mr. Conn was not present, the Synod refer him to that Presbytery, and allow them to receive him, as a probationer, under their care, if, after free conversation with him, they shall find their way clear.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, (Friday,) nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, Mr. Thomas Read, Mr. Jacob Kerr, Mr. Templeton, and Dr. Scott, Mr. Monteith's elder, are now come; their reasons for not attending sooner were sustained.

Agreeably to the order of the day, Synod proceeded to the consideration of a draught of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and having made considerable progress therein,

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

23d day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Templeton was added to the committee appointed to select and prepare for printing, &c.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught of the form of government, &c., and went through several sections.

Mr. Nathan Grier and his elder had leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

24th day, (Saturday,) nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught, and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till nine o'clock on Monday. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

A petition from the inhabitants of Norfolk in Virginia, of the Presbyterian persuasion, was presented and read, praying the Synod to take them under their care, and to appoint a minister of their body to supply them for one year, for which they promise to pay him one hundred and thirty pounds, specie, Virginia currency, to defray the necessary expenses of his journey, and to make every thing as agreeable to him as their circumstances will admit. In answer to which the Synod order Dr. Witherspoon to recommend to Mr. Muir, a member of New Brunswick Presbytery, to repair to Norfolk as soon as convenient, and to supply that people agreeably to their request.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught; and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

26th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

An appeal from a judgment of Philadelphia Presbytery, by Mr. Samuel Blair, was brought in. Ordered, that it be taken into consideration at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Ordered, To proceed in the consideration of the draught; and also of the proposed amendments of the Confession of Faith, and having finished the same,

Adjourned till nine o'clock, A. M. to-morrow. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, Tuesday, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Martin obtained leave to go home.

Agreeably to the order for the day, the Synod proceeded to consider Mr. Blair's appeal from a judgment of Philadelphia Presbytery, by which he conceives himself aggrieved, and prays that it may be rescinded or erased from the records, and after some debate on the subject,

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

27th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

The Synod resumed the consideration of Mr. Blair's appeal and request, and after a full and free deliberation on the subject, the question was put, "erase or not," and was carried in the negative by a large majority. And on further consideration of the subject, it was moved and seconded, and on the question being put was carried in the affirmative, and ordered, that the following resolution be entered on the register of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, viz:

"Though the Synod highly commend the zeal discovered by the Presbytery of Philadelphia for the preservation of the truth; yet, on considering the whole affair, they cannot approve of the form of their proceedings, which are irregular, both in making inquiry by private conversation in their Presbyterial capacity, and also in putting proceedings of that nature on record, and therefore remit to the Presbytery to commence a regular process if they shall find ground for it, and recommend it to Mr. Blair to give every reasonable satisfaction to his brethren, and not to injure his character by unnecessary reserve."

Dr. Scott obtained leave to go home.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, Wednesday, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Mr. Peppard obtained leave to go home.

The Synod having fully considered the draught of the form of government and discipline, did, on a review of the whole, and hereby do ratify and adopt the same, as now altered and amended, as the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, and order the same to be considered and strictly observed as the rule of their proceedings, by all the inferior judicatories belonging to the body. And they order that a correct copy be printed, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, as now altered, be printed in full along with it, as making a part of the constitution.

Resolved, That the true intent and meaning of the above ratification by the Synod, is, that the Form of Government and Discipline and the Confession of Faith, as now ratified, is to continue to be our constitution and the confession of our faith and practice unalterable, unless two thirds of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly shall propose alterations or amendments, and such alterations or amendments shall be agreed to and enacted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Nathan Woodhull and his elder obtained leave to go home.

Ordered, To enter on the consideration of the draught of a directory for the worship of God, reported by the committee appointed for that purpose the last year, and made some progress.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

28th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught of a directory, and made considerable progress.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

29th day, Thursday, nine o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

(Except Mr. Monteith, who has gone home without leave.)

Ordered, To proceed in considering the draught of the directory, and made considerable progress.

Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Smith, and the moderator, were appointed a committee to revise the chapter of the draught of the directory, respecting the mode of inflicting church censures, and to lay it, as by them revised, before the General Assembly at their first meeting, to be by them considered and finally enacted.

Adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

29th day, three o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered, To proceed to the further consideration of the draught of the directory.

The Synod appointed Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Smith, and the moderator, a committee to revise that part of the draught which respects public prayer, and prayers to be used on other occasions, and to prepare it for printing with the constitution.

The Synod having now revised and corrected the draught of a directory for worship, did approve and ratify the same, and do hereby appoint the said directory, as now amended, to be the directory for the worship of God in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. They also took into consideration the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and having made a small amendment of the larger, did approve, and do hereby approve and ratify the said Catechisms, as now agreed on, as the Catechisms of the Presbyterian Church in the said United States. And the Synod order, that the said Directory and Catechisms be printed and bound up in the same volume with the Confession of Faith and the Form of Government and Discipline, and that the whole be considered as the standard of our doctrine, government, discipline, and worship, agreeably to the resolutions of the Synod at their present sessions.

Ordered, That Dr. Duffield, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Green, be a committee to superintend the printing and publishing the above said Confession of Faith and Catechisms, with the Form of Government and Discipline, and the Directory for the Worship of God, as now adopted and ratified by the Synod, as the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and that they divide the several parts into chapters and sections properly numbered.

On motion resolved, that Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Smith, Messrs. John Woodhull, Armstrong, and Monteith, be appointed, and they are hereby appointed delegates on behalf of this Synod, to meet in convention with delegates from the Low Dutch Reformed Synod, and the Associate Reformed Synod, in the city of New York on the first Thursday of next October.

The treasurer reported, that he has received from the members of Synod at their present meeting, the sum of four pounds, two shillings and six pence.

Ordered, That the treasurer pay to the stated clerk the sum of six pounds for transcribing the minutes of the last year and of this, and to the janitor for his service in attending on Synod, and other expenses, three pounds fourteen shillings.

Ordered, That the corporation of the widows' fund have leave to publish at the back of the Constitution and Directory, the rules necessary for the information of young ministers who may become contributors to that institution.

Resolved unanimously, That this Synod be divided, and it is hereby divided into four Synods, agreeably to an act made and provided for that purpose in the sessions of Synod in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six; and that this division shall commence on the dissolution of the present Synod.

Resolved, That the first meeting of the General Assembly, to be constituted out of the above said four Synods, be held, and it is hereby appointed to be held on the third Thursday of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, in the Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and that Dr. Witherspoon, or in his absence, Dr. Rodgers, open the General Assembly with a sermon, and preside till a moderator be chosen.

Resolved, That the Synod of New York and New Jersey meet on Wednesday the twenty-ninth day of next October, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of New York, at three o'clock, P. M. and that the present moderator, or in his absence the senior minister present, open the Synod with a sermon, and preside till a moderator be chosen.

Resolved, That the Synod of Philadelphia meet on the third Wednesday of October next, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and that Dr. Ewing, or in his absence the senior minister present, open the Synod with a sermon, and preside till a moderator be chosen.

Resolved, That the Synod of Virginia meet on the fourth Wednesday of October next, at eleven o'clock, A. M. at New Providence church, and that Mr. Zanchy, or in his absence, the senior minister present open the Synod with a sermon, and preside till a moderator be chosen.

Resolved, That the Synod of the Carolinas meet on the first Wednesday of November next, at eleven o'clock, A. M. at Centre Church, in Roan county, and that Mr. Patillo, or in his absence, the senior minister present, open the Synod with a sermon, and preside till a moderator be chosen.

The Synod was then dissolved. Concluded with prayer.

POSTSCRIPT.

The editor feels it to be a matter of justice to himself to remark, that with all the care he could exercise, an entire uniformity in the spelling of proper names could not be preserved. The minutes were written by various hands, and contain a much greater variation in this respect than is observable in the copy here presented. The manuscript was oftentimes very difficult to be deciphered, and yet it is to be hoped that no material error has occurred in passing the work through the press. W. M. E.

THE END.

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MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL CONVENTION OF DELEGATES

APPOINTED BY THE

SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

AND THE

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

1766 TO 1775.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY THE

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
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INTRODUCTION

THE Minutes printed in this publication are those of a Convention appointed by the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the American Colonies, and the General Association of Connecticut, and meeting from 1766 to 1775.

The moving causes of the appointment of the General Convention were the preservation of the religious liberties of the Colonies, the spread of the Gospel on the American Continent, and the promotion of Christian fellowship between the respective Churches. The first step toward coöperation was taken by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the supreme judicatory of the Presbyterian Church in the Colonies. The Overture of the Synod is printed in this volume as a part of the Preliminary Proceedings.

This Overture was submitted to the General Association of Ministers in the Colony of Connecticut, at Guilford, on Tuesday, June 3, 1766. The action taken is recorded in the Preliminary Proceedings.

The places of meeting of the Convention were Elizabethtown, N. J., in the years 1766, 1768, 1770, 1772, and 1774; New Haven, Conn., in 1767 and 1769; Norwalk, Conn., in 1771; Stamford, Conn., in 1773; and Greenfield, Conn., in 1775. The outbreak of hostilities between the American Colonies and the English Government led to the termination of the Convention, the Revolutionary War having made the maintenance of religious liberty the common work of the Colonies.

The Minutes of the Convention show that the first and second meetings were mainly given to the work of framing and completing a Plan of Union, and that the subsequent Conventions earnestly engaged in the devising and executing of measures for the preservation of the religious liberties of Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists and other Christians, threatened at the time by the schemes of some Episcopalians in the Colonies, aided by their friends in Great Britain. These latter endeavored in every way possible to secure the appointment of diocesan Bishops in America. To this Episcopal movement the vast majority of American Christians were opposed. As has been well said, "To Bishops merely to superintend the concerns of Episcopal churches they did not object, if they might be duly restrained from going farther; but were apprehensive, should Bishops be appointed, that they would come clothed with all the powers of diocesans in the mother country, or that they would acquire these powers and exercise them in violation of the Charters of the Colonies, and greatly to the injury of other denominations of Christians." To nullify the efforts of the extreme party in the Episcopal Denomination, the Convention, therefore, entered into correspondence with committees in England, and some of the letters, with the replies, will be found in this volume.

The Convention also made arrangements for gathering the laws and customs of the Colonies respecting religious liberty; for collecting the statistics of non-Episcopalians, with a view to showing that the prelatical element was greatly in the minority in America; and also for a report of the number and condition of colleges and other institutions of learning.

The reports made by the subcommittees of the Convention do not appear in the Minutes, and for the most part have been lost. The extracts, how-

ever, made by the Rev. Elizur Goodrich, D.D., of Durham, of the laws of Connecticut, and the statistics which he gathered were fortunately preserved. They were printed in 1843 by a Committee of the General Association of Connecticut. The statistics show that out of a population in the Colony in 1774 of 190,487, only 9966 were Episcopalians. Estimates given for the other New England and the Middle Colonies make about the same showing.* It was only in certain of the Southern Colonies that Episcopalians were in a majority.

The Minutes in their original form in the possession of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, are in certain places illegible, but in the main are in a fair state of preservation. They were received from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Rev. Willard M. Rice, D.D., in whose custody they had been for many years. An edition was published in 1843 by the General Association of Connecticut, under the superintendence of a Committee, of which David D. Field was Chairman, but is now out of print. The only copy in the Library of the Hartford Theological Seminary was loaned to the editor, for which helpful courtesy due acknowledgment is hereby made. The minutes in this edition are printed *verbatim*, and are somewhat fuller than in the previous publication.

The Proceedings of the Convention are worthy of close attention from all persons interested in the history of the American Colonies, and have a marked bearing upon the trend of both political and religious movements prior to the Declaration of Independence. In a letter written to England in 1773, dealing with religious liberty, and signed by John Witherspoon, reference is made to "the great struggle we may be called to make in this glorious cause in which the happiness of thousands yet unborn is so deeply interested." †

The apprehensions that an Episcopal hierarchy might be established in the Colonies was one cause of the American Revolution. To this fact the elder President Adams bore testimony. "'Where is the man to be found,' says he, 'at this day [1815], when we see Methodistical Bishops, Bishops of the Church of England, and Bishops, Archbishops, and Jesuits of the Church of Rome with indifference, who will believe that the apprehension of Episcopacy contributed fifty years ago, as much as any other cause, to arouse the attention not only of the inquiring mind, but of the common people, and urge them to close thinking on the constitutional authority of Parliament over the Colonies?' This, nevertheless, was a fact as certain as any in the history of North America. The objection was not merely to the office of a Bishop, though even that was dreaded, as to the authority of Parliament, on which it must be founded. The reasoning was this: The Archbishops and Bishops in England can neither locate and limit dioceses in America nor ordain Bishops in any part of the dominions of Great Britain, out of the realm, by any law of the kingdom, or of any of the colonies, nor by any canon law acknowledged by either. The king cannot grant his *congé d'elire* to any people out of his realm. There is no power or pretended power, less than Parliament, that can create Bishops in America. But if Parliament can erect dioceses and appoint Bishops, they may introduce the whole hierarchy, establish tithes, forbid marriages and funerals, establish religion, forbid dissenters, make schism heresy, impose penalties extending to life and limb, as well as to liberty and property." [See Morse, *Annals of the American Revolution*, pp. 197–203.]

The second President of the United States of America realized clearly what many secular historians have failed to apprehend in an adequate manner—the power of religion in connection with great national movements.

* See pp. 38, 42. † See p. 38.

There can be no question that in those American Colonies which were founded by evangelical Christians, one of the principal forces which brought about the Revolution of 1776 was ineradicable opposition to even the possibility of ecclesiastical tyranny in the New World. The determination was widespread among the Calvinists of every name that they would not submit to even a suggestion of the persecutions and restrictions from which their ancestors had suffered. With this position of the membership of the Protestant Churches the political leaders of the Colonies fully sympathized. Even among the Episcopal laity the opposition was strong to any proposal for an episcopate in the Colonies which should result in an establishment of religion.*

Religious liberty was not a feature of the government of a majority of the Colonies at their first settlement. In some of them, as already indicated, the religious establishment was that of the Episcopal Church. In others the Episcopalians were dominant to the degree that they were able to repress the religious opinions and practices of so-called dissenters. The imprisonment of the Rev. Francis Makemie and the Rev. John Hampton, in 1704, by Lord Cornbury, Governor of New York and New Jersey, is historic, and the former was submitted to a trial, though acquitted by a jury. Further, in several of the New England Colonies, the Congregational Establishments for a time limited the rights of conscience. Connecticut, in 1742, for instance, passed an offensive law, aimed at the ministers engaged in the great revival under George Whitefield, and Dr. Trumbull, in his second volume of *The History of Connecticut*, censures the act in very strong language. The Rev. Elizur Goodrich of that Colony, a member of the Convention whose Minutes are herein printed, well says in a paper on the Colonial laws: "It is certain that for a considerable time there was too much of a coercive uniformity in the laws of the Colony, but this by degrees disappears and an equally universal Protestant liberty is established in its room. Those laws which were inconsistent with freedom of thought and liberty of conscience are either wholly repealed and set aside, or so modeled that none can be oppressed by them. Whatever oppressive measures have been heretofore adopted, we recollect with regret and disapprobation. We rejoice that these have ceased, and that there is such freedom of religious inquiry and worship that no man need be in bondage."

In the effort to secure full religious liberty for the American Colonies the Presbyterian Church bore a leading part. In 1729 its General Synod denied to the civil magistrate what the Westminster Assembly permitted, a controlling power over Synods with respect to the exercise of their ministerial authority. The Synod also denied to the civil magistrate "the power to persecute any for their religion." These acts appear to be the first declaration by an organized Church on American soil, of the freedom of the Church from control by the State, and of absolute liberty of conscience. The Presbyterian Church was favored in its struggles for religious liberty by the Constitution of the Colony within which it was first fully organized, and where, in the providence of God, it had for years, and still has, a great number of adherents. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was established to secure for all who might settle within its borders both civil and religious liberty. Persecution for religion's sake was contrary to the principles of the founder, and absolute freedom of conscience was the law of the land. Twenty-five years before 1776, the Liberty Bell was placed in the city hall at Philadelphia with the inscription upon it, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." It was in a State free from its first

* See pp. 26, 32.

settlement that the death knell of religious intolerance was sounded, that the Presbyterian Church was organized and attained to its full development, and that the Declaration of Independence was adopted. And it is greatly to the credit of the founders of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and of those Christians of whatever Church who sympathized with their views, that these convictions became, through their efforts, at last dominant in a majority of the Colonies, and after the achieval of independence became the guiding principles of the relations of Church and State and of Christian Churches one to another in the American Republic.

Among the names of the members of the Convention appear those of several persons who became prominent in the struggle of the Colonies for independence, notably, Francis Allison, D.D., of Philadelphia; John Rodgers, D.D., of New York; and John Witherspoon, D.D., President of Princeton College and signer of the Declaration of Independence. It is appropriate here to state the fact that Dr. Witherspoon was the author of the pastoral letter sent out in 1775 by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, to all its ministers and congregations, in which the following paragraph appears:—

"Be careful to maintain the union which at present subsists through all the Colonies; nothing can be more manifest than that the success of every measure depends on its being inviolably preserved, and therefore we hope that you will leave nothing undone which can promote that end. In particular, as the Continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia, consists of delegates chosen in the most free and unbiased manner by the body of the people, let them not only be treated with respect and encouraged in their difficult service—not only let your prayers be offered up to God for his direction in their proceedings—but adhere firmly to their resolutions; and let it be seen that they are able to bring out the whole strength of this vast country to carry them into execution. We would also advise, for the same purpose, that a spirit of candor, charity, and mutual esteem be preserved and promoted toward those of different religious denominations. Persons of probity and principle of every profession should be united together as servants of the same Master, and the experience of our happy concord hitherto in a state of liberty should engage all to unite in support of the common interest; for there is no example in history in which civil liberty was destroyed and the rights of conscience preserved entire." (Records of Synod, 1775, p. 468.)

In connection with the Minutes of the Convention attention is drawn to certain facts connected with the history of the General Association of Connecticut. These facts will explain why the General Synod and that Association readily entered into coöperation one with another, both prior to and after the American Revolution. The General Association met first in 1709, and was organized as a result of the Church principles adopted by the Synod at Saybrook, Connecticut, held in 1708. Under the plan adopted by that Synod, commonly known as the "Saybrook Platform," the parish churches of Connecticut were organized into Consociations for mutual counsel and help, and the ministers of the churches were organized into Associations for consultation, ministerial licensure, ordination, and recommendation. In addition, the ministerial Associations elected delegates to an annual General Association of the whole Colony. The Church government of the Connecticut Churches, therefore, was an approach to the Presbyterian Government. Further, both the Presbyterian and the Congregational Churches throughout the Colonies in the eighteenth century were supporters of the Westminster Confession. In creed and in government there was much, therefore, to bind the churches of Connecticut to the Presbyterians of the Middle Colonies.

The fellowship existing between them found expression in many ways, both before and after the Revolution of 1776. The Calvinists of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, as Prof. Williston Walker states in his *History of the Congregational Churches in the United States*, had, for the latter half of the eighteenth century, been drawn "into closer affiliation with the Presbyterians of the Middle States, who largely sympathized with their doctrinal views. The elder Edwards, who was president of Princeton College, and nearly half the trustees of that institution at the time of Edwards' incumbency, had had their education at Yale." Further, the Churches of Connecticut increasingly inclined to the conviction that they were akin in government to the Presbyterians. The Hartford North Association in 1799 declared by formal Resolution that the constitution of the Connecticut Churches contained "the essentials of the Church of Scotland or Presbyterian Church in America." The General Association of Connecticut in 1788 spoke of the plan of union then offered as "a scheme for an union of the Presbyterians in America," and in 1805 called the Saybrook Platform "the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in Connecticut." The parish churches of that Colony were often designated, and are still in many cases known as, Presbyterian churches. All this suggests why from 1766 down to 1837 the General Association of Connecticut and the Supreme Judicatory of the Presbyterian Church, whether General Synod or General Assembly, were associated together, first for the welfare of the American Colonies and afterwards for the religious advancement of the United States of America.

The expense of the publication of these Minutes is borne by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The thanks both of the Church and of the general public are due to the Board and its officers.

Wm. Henry Roberts.

PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

THE proceedings preliminary to the General Convention for the preservation of the religious liberties of the Colonies began with the action of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, of the Presbyterian Church in America, at its sessions in the City of New York, in 1766. On May 30th of that year the General Synod, having given the subject careful consideration, took action which is recorded in its Minutes as follows:—

ACTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

"An Overture was brought in to endeavor to obtain some correspondence between this Synod and the Consociated Churches in Connecticut. A copy of a letter from this Synod to them was also read and approved, and the Rev. Messrs. John Ewing, Patrick Allison, and the moderator, are desired to present this letter and confer with our brethren upon this affair. And in case it shall seem meet to our reverend brethren to attend to this our proposal, so far as to appoint commissioners from their body to meet with commissioners from ours, we appoint the Rev. Dr. Allison and the Rev. Messrs. Timothy Jones, William Tennent, Sr., John Rodgers, Elisha Kent, John Smith, John Blair, and Samuel Buel, to meet with them at such time and place as the reverend brethren of Connecticut shall agree. Mr. Rodgers is appointed to give the Committee notice of what the associated brethren will do relative to this matter." (Records of Synod, pp. 363, 364.)

LETTER OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

"Rev. and Dear Brethren:—The Synod of New York and Philadelphia at their annual meeting in May, 1766, have, among many other expedients to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, concluded, upon the most mature deliberation, that a general meeting of delegates both from your Churches and our Presbyteries would answer this important purpose. Our earnest desire to accomplish so good an end has engaged us to embrace this opportunity of your next General Association, to propose the matter to your serious deliberation, and to invite you to a general consultation about such things as may have a hopeful tendency to promote and defend the common cause of religion against the attacks of its various enemies; as we are all brethren, embarked in the same interest, perfectly agreed in doctrine and worship, substantially pursuing the same method of discipline and church government, and we trust all animated with the same laudable zeal to advance the kingdom of our common Lord, we cannot but hope for your ready concurrence with our invitation. Your good sense and general acquaintance with human nature must necessarily lead you to see that a more intimate acquaintance with each others' views and designs will enable us with greater harmony and consistence, and of consequence with greater success to support the common cause, in which we are all equally engaged. A general agreement in any measures that may be adapted to preserve our religious liberties against all encroachments, and to bless the benighted heathen on our borders with the glorious light of the Gospel, must promise desirable success. From the best information we can obtain about the constitution of your churches we are persuaded that our proposal is not impracticable, and it will give us sensible pleasure to find that your extensive charity and readiness to promote the kingdom of Christ have induced you to concert such measures as will be best adapted to accomplish so important an end. We have appointed the Rev. Mr. Elihu Spencer, Mr. John Ewing, and Mr. Patrick Allison to wait upon you at your next General Association, to deliver you our letter, and to converse with you at large on the subject of this proposal.

"Signed, by order of Synod,

"ELIHU SPENCER, *Moderator.*"

The Minutes and letter of the General Synod were presented and considered by a meeting of the General Association of the Ministers in the Colony of Connecticut, at Guilford, June 17, 1766, at the house of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Ruggles. The reply of the General Association was as follows:—

REPLY OF THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION.

"Whereas a proposal has been made to this General Association by the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia, representing that they are strictly united with us in doctrine and worship, as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and that the great and general interests of the Redeemer's kingdom would be happily promoted, the common cause of religion and virtue strengthened and defended, whilst mutual benevolence and brotherly love would be cultivated by a general union, agreement, and correspondence with us, so far, and in such manner as is consistent and in no degree interfering with their and our respective internal state and order of government and discipline; and that it will give them great satisfaction to meet a number of our ministers at a suitable time and place, to converse with them upon a plan and articles of such desired union.

"We, therefore, having maturely considered their proposal, are unanimously agreed to use our influence to promote a compliance with it through this Colony, and we do in order thereto advise the several Associations to appoint one or more of their body to meet commissioners from the Synod before mentioned, at New York, the first Wednesday in November next [Nov. 5], to converse with them upon a plan and articles of such desired union, to be laid before the several Associations for their concurrence, and to be prepared for the consideration of the next General Association, and then to be completed. Voted in the affirmative." [Records of Association, June, 1766.]

The foregoing reply was enclosed in a letter from the Rev. Thomas Ruggles, Moderator of the General Association, and sent to the Rev. Mr. Rodgers, of New York. The letter is as follows:—

"*Guilford, June* 17, 1766.

"With gratitude we have received the friendly proposal from your Rev. Synod relative to a general union, and our ready compliance with it comes enclosed; and we shall rejoice if the design may be happily carried into execution and answer the good and valuable ends in view. And may the glorious and blessed time approach when love and union may prevail among all denominations of Christians through the world. We are, reverend sir, your affectionate brethren.

"Signed, by order of the Association,

"THOMAS RUGGLES, *Moderator*."

At an adjourned session of the General Association at the Chapel Hall, in New Haven, September 11, 1766, the following order was taken:—

"This Association met according to adjournment, and upon the unanimous motion and desire of the large Convention of ministers present on occasion of the commencement, the Moderator of this Association is requested by writing to desire the Rev. Mr. Rodgers that the intended interview of delegates from the Rev. Synod of New York, etc., and the several Associations of this Colony, may be at Jamaica, on Long Island, and not at New York, as was at first proposed, where it could not be attended without danger of the small-pox. Voted in the affirmative."

EDWARD EELLS, *Scribe*.

The contemplated meeting was finally appointed to be at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE APPOINTING JUDICATORIES

1. SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA.

THE proceedings taken by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia of the Presbyterian Church in America, from 1767 to 1775, in connection with the Joint Convention are as follows:—

1767.

"The consideration of the correspondence with the associate churches of Connecticut resumed.

"The Minutes of a Convention held at Elizabethtown, the fifth of November last, by delegates from the consociated churches in Connecticut and from this Synod were read, and a plan of union proposed between the Congregational, consociated, and Presbyterian Churches formed at that Convention was seriously considered and amended; and the following gentlemen, with any other ministers of this reverend body that please to attend, are appointed to meet with the delegates or commissioners from the Congregational and consociated, or any Presbyterial bodies, at New Haven, the tenth day of next September, and there finally, on the part of this body, to complete the plan of union, and transact all other business that shall be found necessary in consequence thereof.

"The gentlemen appointed are the Rev. Messrs. Lewis, Buel, Mills, McWhorter, Rodgers, Hait, Kirkpatrick, Reed, Ramsey, Beatty, Dr. Allison, Ewing, Blair, Spencer, Wilson, Miller, Duffield, Robert Smith, Graham, and Ball." (Records of Synod, p. 373.)

1768.

"The members of this Synod, appointed to meet the Convention at New Haven last year, report that many of them did meet according to order, and the plan laid before the Synod last year was accepted; and that they have appointed another Convention the first Wednesday of October, at Elizabethtown, and the following gentlemen are now appointed by this Synod to be delegates from this body to meet at said convention, viz.; Messrs. Case, Kent, Lewis, Mills, Rodgers, Jones, Jacob Green, Caldwell, William Tennent, Kirkpatrick, Blair, Spencer, Robert Smith, Miller, Montgomery, Duffield, Hunt, Richard Treat, Hunter, Ewing, Joseph Treat, Dr. Allison, Mead, Close, Brainerd, Allison, Finley, James Kerr, and Cooper.

"The Synod does order Dr. Allison to write to the General Association of Consociated Churches in Connecticut to appoint one of their members to open with a sermon at Elizabethtown; and the Synod orders that the Minutes of said Convention be laid before this body every year." (Records of Synod, pp. 380 and 381.)

1769.

"The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at Elizabethtown last October, laid before the Synod the Minutes of the Convention agreeable to a standing order for that purpose.

"As the next General Convention is to meet the fourteenth of September at New Haven, the Synod appoints to attend on that occasion the following members, viz.; the Rev. Messrs. John Strain, Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Joseph Montgomery, John Craighead, Jacob Kerr, Elihu Spencer, John Ewing, Patrick Allison, Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, Dr. Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, John Close, Samuel Buel, Solomon Mead, and Wheeler Case; Dr. Witherspoon is appointed to open the Convention, or, in case of his absence, Dr. Rodgers." (Records of Synod, p. 392.)

1770.

"The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at New Haven in September last laid before the Synod the Minutes of the Convention.

"As the next General Convention is to meet at Elizabethtown the first Wednesday of October, at eleven o'clock, the Synod appoints to attend on that occasion the Rev. Messrs. Beatty, Sproat, Brainerd, Ewing, Montgomery, William Foster, Bacon, Spencer, Miller, Duffield, King, William Tennent, Dr. Witherspoon, Hait, Halsey, Jones, Horton, Dr. Rodgers, Treat, McWhorter, Blair, Caldwell, Graham, Lewis, Mills, and Tallmage." (Records of Synod, p. 406.)

1771.

"The delegates appointed to meet the Rev. General Convention at Elizabethtown, in October last, brought in the Minutes of their proceedings, which were read.

"As the next General Convention is to meet at Norwalk the first Wednesday of September next, at eleven o'clock, the Synod appoints as delegates to attend upon that occasion the Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Jeremiah Halsey, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Dr. Francis Allison, Dr. John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Azel Roe, Elihu Spencer, J. Treat, Joseph Montgomery, John Blair, John Close, Jedidiah Chapman, John Woodhull, Dr. John Witherspoon, Charles Beatty, Solomon Mead, and Samuel Mills.

"And the Rev. Mr. John Blair, or, in his absence, the Rev. Joseph Montgomery, is appointed to open the Convention by a sermon." (Records of Synod, p. 416.)

1772.

"The Minutes of the last General Convention were laid before the Synod, which were read; and as the next General Convention is to meet at Elizabethtown the fourth Wednesday in September next, the Synod appoint as delegates to attend upon that occasion the Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, James Hunt, John Miller, Joseph Montgomery, William Foster, John Carmichael, Richard Treat, James Sproat, John Brainerd, Dr. Francis Allison, John Ewing, Dr. John Witherspoon, William Tennent, Elihu Spencer, Jeremiah Halsey, Dr. John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, William Mills, John Close, Samuel Mills, and Ichabod Lewis." (Records of Synod, pp. 426 and 427.)

1773.

"The Minutes of the last General Convention were brought by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read; and as the Convention is to meet again at Stamford, in Connecticut, the first Wednesday in September next, at eleven o'clock, we appoint to attend there and to act as members from the Synod, the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. John Rodgers, Andrew Hunter, Elihu Spencer, John Brainerd, Benjamin Hait, John Ewing, Benjamin Chesnutt, Joseph Montgomery, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Joseph Treat, John Carmichael, William Mills, John Close, Jeremiah Halsey, Samuel Mills, and Ichabod Lewis; and Dr. Witherspoon to open the Convention with a sermon, but in case he should fail, Mr. McWhorter is appointed in his room." (Records of Synod, p. 440.)

1774.

"The Minutes of last General Convention were brought in by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read; and as the next Convention is to meet at Elizabethtown, the third Wednesday of September, at three o'clock, P. M., we appoint the Rev. Messrs. Dr. Francis Allison, Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. John Rodgers, Richard Treat, William Tennent, James Sproat, Jacob Green, Andrew Hunter, Benjamin Chesnutt, Israel Read, Elihu Spencer, John Miller, Benjamin Hait, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, John Woodhull, Jedidiah Chapman, and George Duffield to attend there as members of the said Convention from this body." (Records of Synod, pp. 453 and 454.)

1775.

"The Minutes of the last General Convention were brought in by Dr. Rodgers, their stated register, and read.

"The Synod appoint as delegates for the next Convention, Messrs. Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Allison, Dr. Rodgers, Wheeler Case, Ichabod Lewis, Samuel Mills, David Rose, John Davenport, Joseph Treat, Thomas Lewis, Benjamin Woodruff, John Close, Benjamin Hait, Jeremiah Halsey, Elihu Spencer, Israel Read, John Brainerd, James Sproat, Nathaniel Irwin, Robert Davison, Joseph Montgomery, and John Woodhull, to meet at Greenfield in Connecticut, the first Wednesday of next September. Mr. Joseph Treat to open the Convention with a sermon, and in case of Mr. Treat's absence Mr. Hait to preach the sermon." (Records of Synod, p. 464.)

1776.

"The Minutes of the last Convention were brought in and read.

"The Synod, considering the distracted situation of our public affairs, judge that an attendance on the Convention by any of their members the ensuing appointment will be impracticable, and order Dr. Rodgers to inform the General Association as early as possible thereof, together with their design of sending members to attend at the place appointed, on the third Wednesday of September, 1777." (Records of Synod, p. 473.)

1777.

"The Synod are of opinion that they cannot send any members to meet the General Convention on the third Wednesday of September next, and order Mr. Sproat to give notice thereof to the General Association of Con-

necticut; and that the Synod will cheerfully appoint members to attend said Convention whenever the situation of public affairs will admit of it." (Records of Synod, p. 477.)

II. GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT.

The proceedings of the General Association of Connecticut as reported in the edition of the Minutes of the Convention, published in 1843, were as follows:—

1767.

"The Association being informed by the delegates that the several particular Associations in the Colony have considered and approved the design of a Convention at New Haven next September, agreeable to the motion made at the Convention in Elizabethtown last November, and have appointed delegates to attend it, desire the Moderator to signify the same to the Rev. Synod by a letter to the Rev. John Rodgers of New York, which is as follows:—

"Rev. Sir:—By order of the General Association now regularly convened at Middletown, I am desired to inform you, and by you, the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia, that the proposed Convention at New Haven in September next has been considered and approved by the particular Associations through the Government, and they have appointed delegates to attend the Convention agreed to by the Rev. Convention at Elizabethtown in November last; and to assure you that with great respect we are your brethren in the faith and fellowship of our common Lord Jesus Christ." (The Rev. Thomas Ruggles was the Moderator.)

1768.

"Voted, that Mr. Dickinson, who is appointed a delegate to the General Convention at Elizabethtown in October next, be desired to preach at the opening of the Convention; and in case of his failing, Mr. Williams, another of our delegates, is desired to attend that service."

There are also entries of a concurrence of the General Association with the Synod about the admission of members to the Convention, and about voting, which will appear in the Minutes of the next Convention, and need not therefore be inserted in this place.

1769.

"In the brief Records of the General Association of Connecticut for 1769 nothing is said about the General Convention."

1770.

"The Rev. Mr. Lockwood of Wethersfield is appointed to preach the sermon in the public Convention at Elizabethtown, and in case of his failure, Mr. Ross."

1771.

"The Rev. Messrs. Taylor and Ross, according to the appointment of the last General Convention, laid before this body the importance of punctually attending every General Convention, particularly the next at Norwalk, and 'tis hereby earnestly recommended to the delegates now chosen that they do attend."

1772.

"Instructions to the delegates of the several Associations to attend the next General Convention to meet at Elizabethtown the last Wednesday but one in September, 1772.

"Rev. Brethren:—Whereas some of the clergy of the Church of England have shewed great assiduity in soliciting an American Episcopate, and petitions (as we are informed) have been preferred to his Majesty, the Archbishop of Canterbury, &c., by Messrs. Cooper and Horrax, requesting the same, we inform you that 'tis the advice of this Association that you heartily concur with the Southern gentlemen in counteracting any motions that have or shall be made for said Episcopate, in such manner as may seem most convenient in said Convention.

"Voted, That the Rev. Samuel Clark, who is appointed delegate to the next General Convention at Elizabethtown, be desired to open said Convention with a sermon; and in case of his failing, Mr. Cotton M. Smith, another of our delegates, is desired to perform that service.

"Voted, To desire the Rev. Noah Wells, standing Register of the General Convention, annually to lay before this Board the doings of said Convention."

1773.

The Records of the General Association of Connecticut for 1773 do not notice the General Convention.

1774.

"The Rev. Samuel Lockwood is appointed to preach the sermon at the opening of the next General Convention at Elizabethtown, and in case of his failure, the Rev. Mr. Baldwin is appointed.

"The doings of the last General Convention were read before this Association, and were well accepted."

1775.

In the recorded Minutes of the General Association of Connecticut, in June, 1775, there is no notice of the doings of the General Convention the preceding year, nor reference to the then succeeding meeting the same year.

1776.

The original Minutes of the General Association of 1776 are lost, and it is not known whether any report of the General Convention of 1775 was made to the Association at that time.

NOTE.—While the General Convention did not meet after the year 1775, and while the success of the American arms made unnecessary any united effort against the establishment of a Diocesan Episcopacy in the new world, yet the coöperation of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia and the General Association of Connecticut for the spiritual welfare of the American people was continued, and is referred to in the Introduction.*

* See p. 5.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION

1766.

Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Nov. 5th, 1766.

The Convention of the Rev. the Delegates from the several Associations in Connecticut, and the Rev. Committee of the Synod of New York and Philada. met according to agreement.

Present from Connecticut: the Rev. Messrs. Noah Welles, Samuel Newel, James Sproat, Eliezer Goodrich, Benjamin Boardman, and William Tennent, Jr.

Members of the Synod: Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, Sr., Dr. Francis Allison, John Blair, Timothy Jones, John Brainerd, Samuel Buel, Azariah Horton, Charles Beaty, William Mills, Alexander McWhorter, Benjamin Hait, Jonathan Elmer, Israel Read, John Guild, Benjamin Woodruff, Azel Roe, Joseph Treat, Patrick Allison, Jedidiah Chapman, and John Rodgers.

Mr. Welles opened the Convention with a sermon from Rom. iii. 31, after which Mr. Welles was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Rodgers, Scribe.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Nov. 6, 1766. 6th day, 9 o'clock, A. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

Present also this day from Connecticut: the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Bellamy, Robert Ross, and Nathaniel Taylor; and of the Synod, the Rev. Mr. Enoch Green.

The Minutes of the Synod respecting this Convention, and their letter to the associated brethren of Connecticut, inviting them thereto, were read; as also the commission of the several brethren from that Colony, given them by their respective Associations.

The design of this Convention was then opened, and two papers on the subject were read. Agreed that they be taken into consideration, which was accordingly done, and after some consideration on their several articles, adjourned till three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 o'clock P.M. P. P. S. Q. S.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

Mr. John Carmichael, a member of Synod, is also present. The Convention proceeded to consider the articles of the papers read the last sederunt, and the following general articles were agreed to, to be laid before our respective constituants:—

A plan of union humbly proposed to the Commissioners from the Consociated Churches in Connecticut, and the United Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met at Elizabethtown, Nov. 5, 1766.

1st. That a General Convention be formed of the Pastors of the Congregational, Consociated, and Presbyterian Churches in North America, consisting of delegates, chosen by each of these respective bodies, to be held annually, or as often as may be thought necessary, and that the first

Convention be held at New Haven the next day after their public commencement, which will be the 10th day of Sept., 1767.

2d. That this General Convention shall not be invested with, nor shall it at any time hereafter assume any power, dominion, jurisdiction, or authority over the Churches or Pastors, or any other Church or Pastor. And it is particularly agreed that the Congregational, Consociated and Presbyterian Churches shall subsist intire and independant of each other, notwithstanding this union, retaining their peculiar usuages and forms of government; nor shall ever attempts be made, nor any authority directly or indirectly used by this General Convention to change or assimulate the same.

3rdly. That the general design of this Convention be to gain information of the public state of this united cause and interest; to collect accounts relating thereto; to unite our endeavors and counsels for spreading the Gospel and preserving the religious liberties of our Churches; to diffuse harmony and keep up a correspondence throughout this united body and with our friends abroad, to recommend, cultivate, and preserve loyalty and allegiance to the King's Majesty, and also to address the King or the King's Ministers from time to time with assurances of the unshaken loyalty of the pastors comprehended in this union and the churches under their care, and to vindicate them if unjustly aspersed.

4th. That summary accounts of all the informations and transactions in this General Convention be from time to time duly transmitted to all the Associations, Presbyteries, or any other bodies that shall accede to, or be included in, this Union.

It is also agreed that letters be wrote to the Rev. the ministers of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island governments, informing them what we have done at this General Convention, and inviting them in the warmest manner to meet us by proper deligates at New Haven on the day agreed on; as also that letters of the same nature or tenor be wrote to the Rev. brethren of the Dutch Reformed Churches in the Provinces of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; and Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Beaty, and Mr. McWhorter are desired to prepare draughts of said letters, to be brought in to-morrow morning; and inasmuch as there are three Associations in Connecticut who are not represented in this Convention, Mr. Sproat is desired to communicate a copy of this Plan to the Moderator of the two Associations in New London county, and Mr. Newel is desired to communicate one to the Moderator of the Association of Windham.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Nov. 7, 1766. 7th day, 9 o'clock, A. M. P. P. S. Q. S.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read. The Committee appointed to prepare the draught of a letter to the Brethren of the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island governments and of the Dutch Churches, brought it in, which was read, approved, and is as follows:—

To the Reverend, the, &c., Convention of the Congregational pastors in Massachusetts Bay:—The Rev'd Delegates from the Associated Pastors in Connecticut and the Rev'd Committee of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, convened at Elizabethtown, November 5, 1766.

Rev. Brethren:—The Synod of New York and Philadelphia, at their last session in May, taking into serious consideration the many valuable purposes, both for promoting the kingdom of Christ and preserving our religious liberty, that might be answered by a general union of the Congregational, Consociated, and Presbyterian Ministers in these Colonies of North America, proposed their thoughts to the Rev. Associated Pastors of Connecticut, who appointed delegates from each of their Associations to meet with a Committee of said Synod, to concert some plan wherein they

might unite, and then lay said plan before their respective constituents, who accordingly met and drew up such a plan of union as appeared to them expedient, which, if approved by our constituents, will be confirmed at our first General Convention, which is to be at New Haven the 10th of Sept., 1767. And as we greatly desire that your union should extend through all the Colonies, we embrace this first opportunity to inform our brethren of it in the other Provinces, that, if agreeable to them, they may send delegates to this General Convention, to unite in this important design and assist in finishing and compleating the plan, of which we enclose you a copy, that you may have time to deliberate upon it, and if you think proper to unite with us, may have opportunity to make such emendations as you shall judge expedient.

Your presence with us, by such gentlemen as you shall appoint from your Rev. body, in such way and manner as appears to you most convenient, will be very acceptable to your brethren in our common Lord.

Per order of the present Convention,

NOAH WELLES, *Chairman.*

It is agreed that these letters be signed by the Chairman, in the name of the present Convention.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 o'clock, P. M. Post preces sederunt qui supra.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

The letters to the several brethren to the eastward invited to join with us in this union were properly signed, and sent together with the plans enclosed.

The Scribe is desired to send proper copies of this letter to the pastors of the Dutch Reformed Churches, together with a plan of the proposed union. Concluded with prayer.

PROPOSED LETTER.

(The following proposed letter is annexed to the foregoing Minutes, as found in the edition of 1843. It is stated to have been written by the Register of New Haven East Association, and is here inserted as throwing light upon the general situation in 1766.)

Suppose a gentleman in the Colonies should write to his correspondent in London as follows:—

"Sir:—We understand sundry petitions have been sent home by some of the Episcopal Clergy in these Colonies in order to obtain the appointment of a Bishop here; and that it is a determined point on your side of the water to embrace the first favorable opportunity for that purpose. This affair we must confess gives us much anxiety, not that we are of intolerant principles; nor do we envy the Episcopal Churches the privileges of a Bishop for the purposes of ordination, confirmation, and inspecting the morals of their Clergy, provided they have no kind of superiority over, nor power any way to affect the civil or religious interests of other denominations. Let this be but settled by an act of Parliament, and such Bishops divested of the powers annexed to that office by the common law of England, and then we shall be more easy. Without this the introduction of a Diocesan into the Colonies would throw us into the utmost confusion and distraction. For though it is alleged that no other than the above hinted moderate Episcopacy is desired or designed; yet should it not be fixed by Parliamentary authority, we have no security that matters will be carried no farther; yea, from the restless spirit, which some here have discovered, we have reason to apprehend that there is more in view. Our forefathers, and even some of ourselves, have seen and felt the tyranny of Bishops' Courts. Many of the first inhabitants of these Colonies were obliged to seek an asylum among savages in this wilderness in order to escape the ecclesiastical tyranny of Archbishop Laud and others of his stamp. Such tyranny, if now exercised in America, would either drive us to seek new habitations among the heathen, where England could not claim a jurisdiction, or excite riots, rebellion, and wild disorder. We dread the consequences as oft as we think of this danger. Gentlemen acquainted with the law inform us that a Bishop is a public minister of state, known in the common law of England, and invested with a power of erecting courts to take cognizance of all affairs testamentary and matrimonial, and to enquire into and punish for all offences of scandal. Might he not plead, as well as any man, that the common law of England is his birth-right, and that the laws

in force before the settling of the Colonies were brought hither and took place with the first settlers. What is to hinder him to claim all the powers exercised by Archbishop Laud and his Ecclesiastical Courts? All acts made in England since that time to lessen the power of Bishops and their Courts can be of no service to us, for it is not mentioned in any of them that they are extended to the Colonies, and the reason is plain: no such exorbitant powers were claimed or exercised among us. Now can anything else than the most grievous convulsion in the Colonies be expected from such a revolution? Will it all go down with us to have the whole course of business turned into a new channel? Would it be yielded that the Register's office, the care of orphans, &c., should be transferred from the present officers to such as a Bishop might appoint? Would not the Colonies suffer the last extremities before they would submit to have the legality of marriages and matters respecting divorce tried in an Ecclesiastical Court? It is not easy to conceive what endless prosecutions under the notion of scandal may be multiplied. A covetous, a tyrannical, and domineering Prelate or his Chancellor would always have it in their power to harass our country, and make our lives bitter by fines, imprisonments, and lawless severity. Will the numerous Colonies, who came hither for the sake of freedom from ecclesiastical oppression, and by whose toil a great increase of dominion and commerce hath arisen to the mother country, bear to find themselves divested of the equality and liberty they have so long enjoyed, and brought under the power of a particular denomination? And see them monopolize all important places of trust in order to secure that power? That the Episcopal Churches should enjoy all the privileges of their own discipline and government is a matter we have nothing to object against, but let Bishops be by law confined to the care of the people and clergy of their own Church, and stript of all their formidable power over other denominations, and let us be secured against the burden of their support; but without this we shall look upon ourselves reduced to the most abject state, enslaved to the power of those whose interest or ambition may lead them to oppress us, without the advantage of being near the throne to beg relief, while they would be supported by all the power and influence of the Bishops at home. We have no more to object to a Bishop over the Episcopal Churches in America than among the Canadians and Moravians, provided they have no more to do with us. We only desire the interests of our friends, that if Bishops must be sent, which we fear will be attended with bad consequences, they may be under such restraints as are consistent with our present state of peace and liberty, and beg their influence to prevent these evils, which will inevitably disturb the peace of our Colonies without doing any real service to religion or the Episcopal Churches. Do us the justice to assert that we love our most gracious King and the British Constitution, that we are upon principle loyal as well as profitable subjects, and that our importance to Great Britain will become every day more evident, and take proper opportunities to lay these dangers before our friends with you, which will oblige thousands in America, and in particular, &c."

LETTER OF FRANCIS ALLISON.

Among the files in the hands of the Register of New Haven East Association is the following letter, relating to the same subject as the foregoing document, and which was published in 1843:—

"To Mr. Sproat,

"Rev. Sir:—You desired me to let you know why we are persuaded in this city that there is a determination or a fixed resolution to send Bishops to America.

"By a letter from Dr. Ch. [Chandler] which I have by me I was informed that the Bishop of Canterbury, in a conference with him, said with some vehemence that it was hard to deny that privilege to the Church of England in America that she allowed to all Dissenters—viz., liberty of conscience. And they were determined, as he said, in a proper time to send Bishops. The Doctor said he desired he might know before they were sent, which the Archbishop promised him. Dr. Samuel Provost of our Colony told me that it was the last thing the Archbishop gave his clergy in charge, not to tease the Bishop and others with petitions from the clergy of the Colonies, for they would watch the opportunity and make a point of sending Bishops without any further trouble. He also told a gentleman of great veracity of the —— that he [Dr. Smith] had given in a plea for establishing Bishops, which would certainly take place. The Bishop of Canterbury, I was told by Mr. William S. [Smith] of New York, in his answer to Dr. Mayhew, declares that they would send Bishops as soon as it would be found agreeable to the P., and that may be easily accomplished by the Governor and Assembly of some of our Colonies, which would be taken for the voice of the people before the petition; and Doctor S. told me that the leading Quakers in this

Province offered to sign a certificate that they are willing to admit a moderate Episcopacy.

"I saw two petitions from the Clergy of the Episcopal Church in New York and Jersey governments, petitioning for a Bishop or Bishops, complaining that more than a million (in the other near a million) of petitioners or parishioners of Episcopalians (of persons of the —— of Epis.) are without Bishops, while all other religious denominations had their forms of government full and complete. These were written the 2d October, 1765, and sent home, and with them five others—viz., two to the Archbishops of York and Canterbury; two to the two Universities; one to the Bishop of London, one to the Society for Propagating the Gospel, and one to the King—seven in all. And in them or these they reflect on other denominations as disaffected to monarchical government, and allege that the King's power (or privilege) and theirs is inseparably connected. In that city it is the subject of conversation in the coffee-house and in the most public companies as an affair that must take place; and as an affair that it would be disloyal and intolerant to oppose. One of their petitions above mentioned was found among Dr. Chandler's papers, as Mr. Stockton informed Mr. William Smith of New York, by a letter which I heard him read.

"In the Annual Register for the year 1765 Mr. Allen of that city showed me the plea proposed by Dr. Boulter (who was a Bishop) for sending Bishops to America. And Dr. S. told me that they would have Bishops settled in America in spite of all the Presbyterian opposition, and added that the Quakers and Baptists would join with them against us. They say that their Bishops are only to have the power of ordaining, confirming, and taking care of the morals of their Episcopal Clergy. To such few would make objections. That is the Archbishop's proposal and Bishop Boulter (or Butler's) scheme. As a Bishop is a state affair, known in the common law of England, by that law he has a right to establish courts, to take cognizance of all affairs matrimonial, testamentary, and relating to scandals; and no denomination is free from his jurisdiction. That power they have a right by common law to exercise; as we are informed by gentlemen as well skilled in the law as any on the Continent; and under one of these three heads we must feel the severity of a spiritual court. The friends of Episcopacy say that their power in England cannot take place in America, for it is local and confined. We know that in New England governments, tabellions or notaries public are appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which shows that he claims this power by the common law. In New York we are told that all the marriage licenses granted by the Governor are stamped with the mitre, which shows that the Bishops claim the power there in affairs matrimonial; and I am told that the Governor of New Jersey holds a commission from the Archbishop to act for him in some things relating to affairs testamentary or matrimonial, or both. Hence it is evident from the conduct of the Archbishop that they claim this power, and that they will erect such courts to ruin and oppress us unless they be restrained by an act of Parliament; and that every friend of liberty should plead for, if Bishops must be sent among us. Thus have I briefly laid before you what I know in that affair, and wishing you safe to your family and connections, I am, dear sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

"FRA. ALLISON."

Philadelphia, Nov. 15, 1766.

1767.

New Haven, Sept. 10, 1767.

The General Convention met. Ubi post preces sedet. Of the Rev'd Synod of New York and Philadelphia: the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, Messrs. William Ramsey, William Kirkpatrick, Benjamin Hait, Alexander McWhorter, Azel Roe, John Ewing, Patrick Allison, Thomas Lewis, Nehemiah Bacher, Chauncey Graham, Eliphalet Ball, Solomon Mead, John Rodgers, and Jedediah Chapman.

Of the Rev'd the Presbytery of Boston: Messrs. Jonathan Parsons and David McGregory.

Of the Rev'd the Associated Pastors of Connecticut: Messrs. Nathaniel Eells, Joseph Fish, Philemon Robbins, Ebenezer Devotion, Benj'n Throope, Benj'n Pomroy, James Cogswell, Timothy Pitkin, Edward Dorr, James Lockwood, William Russel, James Sproat, Noah Welles, Daniel Farrand, Nathaniel Bartlett, John Devotion, Robert Ross, Hezekiah Gold, and Enoch Huntington.

The Convention was opened with a sermon by Dr. Francis Allison from 1 Cor. xii. 27. Dr. Allison was chosen Chairman and Mr. Welles, Scribe. After prayer the Convention adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

3 o'clock, P.M., met according to adjournment, and opened with prayer.

Voted, That the thanks of the Convention be returned to the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison for his sermon delivered at the opening of it, and that he be desired to give a copy of it that it may be printed.

The Minutes of the Convention at Elizabethtown, in Nov. last were read in Convention: as also the Resolves* of the Convention in Boston, the Associated Pastors of Rhode Island and Providence, and of one Association in New Hampshire, in answer to the letters of invitation sent them from the Convention in November last. After some conversation and debate upon the above Resolves;

Voted, That Messrs. Ebenezer Devotion, Parsons, McGregory, Ewing, McWhorter, Sproat, and Dorr be appointed a Committee to bring in a plan for continuing the Convention.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

[*Sept. 11, 1767.*]

11th day. Met according to adjournment, and opened with prayer.

Moved that the Resolves of the Convention in Boston, in answer to the letter of invitation, be considered; the same were accordingly read, and a free conference had upon the contents of them.

A Plan for continuing this Convention, prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose, was brought in and read in the Convention, and after some debate and consultations upon the contents of it, the Convention adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 o'clock P. M.: met according to adjournment, and opened with prayer.

After some particular conference upon the plan of union drawn up in Nov. last, it was agreed by this Board that the following addition be made to the 2d Article, viz.: immediately after the words "or any other Church

* The Resolves here referred to are supposed to be the votes in the following Extract from the Records of the Convention of Congregational Ministers in Massachusetts.

Boston, May 27, 1767. "A letter from the Rev. Delegates from the Associated Pastors in Connecticut, and the Rev. Committee of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, convened at Elizabethtown, Nov. 5th, 1766, to the Rev. Convention of the Congregational Pastors in Massachusetts Bay, inviting them to send their Delegates to the proposed General Convention at New Haven, on September 10th, 1767, was communicated to the Convention, together with a Plan of Union, drawn up by the Delegates aforesaid; to take place among the Pastors of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in North America."

May 28. "Voted, &c. Whereas we have received a letter from the Rev. Delegates [aforesaid], &c., &c. That although we are not prepared to send Delegates to the proposed Convention, yet we take this occasion to declare our sincere affection to our Brethren and fellowship with them in the Gospel, and our readiness at all times to unite our counsels and endeavors with them for the spreading of the Gospel, defending the liberties of these Churches, for cultivating love and harmony among ourselves, and with our friends abroad, and for promoting the kingdom of our common Redeemer."

"Voted, That the aforesaid Pastors of the town of Boston with," &c., "be a Committee to make a respectful answer to the aforesaid letter, and also to maintain a friendly correspondence with our Brethren aforesaid; said Committee to make a report at our next meeting."

Voted, "That [the aforesaid Committee] be desired in the name of the Convention, to write to the Committee of Deputation of Dissenters in England, to thank them for the concern they have expressed for our religious liberties; and to desire that they would give us their assistance, and use their influence for the preservation of the same, and in particular, that a Bishop may not be sent among us."

or Pastor,"—these words, "nor shall any counsel or advice be asked or given, in this General Convention, relative to any internal debates subsisting, or that may subsist, in any of those bodies."

Voted, That letters be wrote in the name of this Convention, to the several Rev'd Bodies in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, in answer to those received from them: And that Dr. Allison and Mr. Ewing be appointed to prepare and send a letter to the Convention in Boston; Messrs. Elles and Fish, to our Brethren in Rhode Island; and Messrs. McGregory and Parsons, to our Brethren in New Hampshire.

Voted, That the following gentlemen be appointed as Committees to carry on an epistolary correspondence with our friends in Great Britain, particularly Dennis Dubert, Esq., and Mr. Samuel Smith, merchant in London; with our Brethren in the Massachusets, &c., and with each other, viz.: in Pennsylvania—the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, Messrs. Richard Treat, and John Ewing; in New York and New Jersey—Messrs. John Rodgers, Joseph Treat, Alexander McWhorter, and Benjamin Hait; in Connecticut—Messrs. Noah Hobart, James Lockwood, Naphtali Daggett, Edward Dorr, and Noah Welles.

Ordered that the next meeting of the General Convention be at Elizabethtown, on the first Tuesday of October, which will be in the year 1768, unless the Chairman, with the advice of the Committee of correspondence, shall see it necessary to order a meeting sooner.

The Convention concluded with prayer by the Chairman.

The above are the doings of the Convention.

Test,
NOAH WELLES, *Scribe.*

LETTER FROM THE CONVENTION IN BOSTON.

Boston, June 21, 1767.

R. D. B.:—Your Plan of Union among the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in North America, was laid before the Convention at their general meeting at Boston, May 28. The Convention with Pleasure embrace the opportunity of declaring their sincere affection to our Brethren engaged in this extensive Design and assure them of our readiness to unite our counsels and endeavor with them in every method which may have a tendency to promote the Honour of Religion, extend the Kingdom of our Divine Master, establish Harmony among the Churches of Christ and defend them in the full enjoyment of their religious liberties.

With this view we shall at all times employ our Interest with our friends at home and abroad and upon every occasion manifest our fellowship with you in the Faith and hope of the Gospel.

But upon mature deliberation we cannot but fear the inconveniences which may probably arise from the proposed Plan of Union, will counter ballance the advantages which are expected from it. You are all sensible that the Congress at New York last year tho' assembled upon an important occasion, was viewed in a very disadvantageous light on the other side of the Atlantic, and represented as a design to force the Colonys into an independent State. It seems as if the British Parliment considered that transaction as a greater insult upon their authority than any other measures which were taken to oppose the Stamp Act.

It is not improbable that the Ecclesiastical authority in our Mother Country will look upon so extensive a Confederacy as now proposed in something of a similar light. You well remember the Episcopal Clergy in their late Petition for a Bishop made a piteous lamentation over their own distressed situation, that while all the dissenters from the Church of England in North America enjoy their religious establishments, they are deprived of an essential part of their Constitution; we fear that the intended General Convention will furnish them with a more plausible argument to inforce their petition than they would otherwise have had. Our wise and judicious friends in London assure us that there is no danger at present, that an American Bishop will be appointed. If any project of this nature should be revived and meet with encouragement we shall doubtless have seasonable notice from a Committee of the Deputation in London, with whom we keep a correspondence; and we shall unite with our breth-

ren in the most vigorous methods to render the attempt abortive. Till danger appears it is best not to give an alarm; it is wise not to awaken jealousy lest we feel its unhappy consequences. This was a caution given us by Doc'r Avery some years ago—a gentleman of the first distinction among the dissenters, and for many years Chairman of the Committee of Deputation. These are his words: "Hitherto the affair of the American Bishop lies dormant and seems not likely to be revived unless we awaken it by an indiscreet and intemperat ly zealous opposition; this it is to be hoped our friends in New England will cautiously avoid. We will watch it here as carefully as we can, and will continue to take the most prudent methods we can to ward off the blow that has been so long threatened.

About the year 1725 in the gentle reign of George I. under the pacific administration of Sr Robert Walpole, the Convention of the Massachusits, proposed calling a Synod to consult the most proper methods to revive religeon in this land. The Ministers of the Church of England feared where no occasion of fear was, and used every art and address to prevent this pious and inoffensive design. The Consequence was Gov'r Dummer received a severe reproof for giving his assent to the calling the Synod, and had positive orders to prevent their meeting in any time to come. Whether anything of the like nature is to be feared in the present case may deserve consideration. If at any time the libertys of our Churches should be assailed we are persuaded relief may be obtained in more silent methods. In these we shall always with pleasure unite with you. We account it our honour and duty upon all occasions to give you the sincerest evidences that we are

Your affectionate brethren and humble servants,

To the Rev'd Mr. Noah Welles, to be communicated to the Convention which is to meet at New Haven, Sept. 10th, 1767. } JOSEPH SEWALL, in the name of the Committee.

1768.

Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Oct. 5, 1768.

The Rev. General Convention of Delegates from the Associated Churches of Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment. U. P. P. S.

Rev'd William Tennent, sen'r, Wheeler Case, William Mills, John Rodgers, Thomas Lewis, Timothy Jones, Joseph Treat, James Caldwell, William Kirkpatrick, John Blair, Robert Smith, Joseph Montgomery, Richard Treat, Andrew Hunter, John Ewing, Solomon Mead, John Close, John Brainerd, Jacob Green.

From Connecticut, Rev. Messrs. Elnathan Whitman, Eliphalet Williams, Nathaniel Whitaker, Mark Leavenworth, Warham Williams, Enoch Huntington, John Smalley, Joseph Bellamy, and Moses Mather.

The Rev. Mr. Elnathan Whitman was chosen Chairman, and the Rev. Messrs. Enoch Huntington and John Ewing were chosen Scribes.

The Convention was opened by the Rev. Mr. Eliphalet Williams by a sermon from Psalm 122: the four last verses.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last General Convention be read.

A Minute of the General Association was brought in and read, which is as follows:—

"At a General Association of the pastors of the Consociated Churches in the Colony of Connecticut convened by delegation at Coventry, June 21, 1768.

"Whereas some dispute arose in the last General Convention concerning the admission of members to vote in said Convention; and whereas we understand that the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia in order to put an end to that dispute for time to come, did at their last meeting agree that though any gentlemen who should think proper may be freely permitted to be present in Convention, yet none but the Delegates shall be allowed to vote: this Association heartily concurs with the above limitation, and moreover give it as our opinion and advice that none but the Delegates shall be admitted publicly to debate any case before the Convention, unless partic-

ularly requested so to do. And it is further declared as the opinion and advice of this body, that it is not expedient for the future, that any of our Associations delegate more than two members to the General Convention.

"Finally, we think it may be advisable that in a future General Convention, nothing be an act of said Convention, considered as the voice of the united body, but what has the major vote of the respective members that shall be present, both from the Synod and from the Consociated Pastors in Connecticut."

A letter from the Association of the Western District in the County of New London, giving reasons for their declining to send delegates, and moving that an annual correspondence by letters between the Synod of New York and Philadelphia and the General Association be substituted, instead of the Annual Convention, was brought in and read. After considering these affairs the Convention resolved to continue in their present form and acquiesce in the advices received from the General Association.

Ordered, That the Rev. Messrs. Ewing, Smalley, and Blair be a Committee to prepare a draught of a letter to the Deputies for managing the affairs of Dissenters in England, in order to open a correspondence with them; and lay it before the Convention to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Oct. 6, 1768.

6th day, at 8 o'clock A. M., the Convention met. U. P. P. S. Q. S.

Together with the Rev. Mr. Robert Ross, of Stratfield, in Connecticut.

Ordered that the minutes of the last sed't be read.

The Committee appointed last night to prepare a draught of a letter to the Dissenting Committee in England, brought in one, which, being read and corrected, was approved, and is as follows:—

Gentlemen,

The pastors of the Consociated Churches of Connecticut have agreed with the Synod of New York and Philadelphia to meet annually by Delegates in General Convention on the most catholic foundation; to give information of the public state of our united interests; to join our counsels and endeavors together for spreading and preserving the religious liberties of our Churches; to recommend, cultivate and preserve loyalty and allegiance to the King's Majesty, and to keep up a correspondence through this united body and with our friends abroad. This we have apprehended to be our duty, especially in our present circumstances, not only that we might strengthen our influence in suppressing and discouraging any measures that might be fallen upon by the people committed to our care; that would be inconsistent with our character as peaceable and loyal subjects, or detrimental to the public peace and tranquillity, but also that we might as faithful officers in the Church of Christ, watch over her rights and privileges to endeavor more effectually to prevent any attempts of any other denomination of Christians to oppress us. The late attempts of the Episcopalian Missionaries among us to introduce an American Episcopate have given a very general alarm to our Churches, who fled from the unmerciful rigor and persecution of Diocesan Bishops in our mother country to settle in an uncultivated wilderness; the recollection of the cruelties and hardships which our fathers suffered before this peaceful retreat was opened for us, fills our minds with an utter abhorrence of every species of ecclesiastical tyranny and persecution. And therefore we would guard with special care against admitting any just suspicion that we would suffer that to take place among ourselves which we so much condemn in others. We oppose not, therefore, the introduction of Diocesan Bishops into America from any apprehension that we have any exclusive privilege above others, or from any right we have to endeavor to prevent them from enjoying the same liberties with any other denomination of Christians in the Colonies. We oppose the scheme from very different motives and principles. Our fears would not be so much alarmed could any rational method be devised for sending over Bishops among us stripped of every degree of civil power, and confined in the exercise of their ecclesiastical function to their own societies: and could we have sufficient security that the British Parliament, that could send them

over to us thus limited, to gain a peaceable settlement here, would never be induced by their complaints for the want of power to enlarge it at any future period. But it is very evident it is not that harmless and inoffensive Bishop which is designed for us, or the missionaries among us request; and therefore, we cannot but be apprehensive of danger from the proposed Episcopate, however plausible the scheme may be represented. We well know the jealousy of the Bishops in England concerning their own power and dignity, suffering by the example of such a limited Bishop in America, and we also know the force of a British act of Parliament; and have reason to dread the establishment of Bishop's courts among us. Should they claim the rights of holding these courts, and of exercising the power belonging to their office, by the common law of England, [which is esteemed the birth-right of a British subject,] we could have no counterbalance to this enormous power in our Colonies where we have no nobility, or proper courts, to check the dangerous exertions of their authority; and where our governors and judges may be the needy dependents of a prime minister, and therefore afraid to disoblige a person who is sure of being supported by the whole Bench of Bishops in England; so that our civil liberties appear to us to be in imminent danger from such an establishment. Besides, nothing seems to have such a direct tendency to weaken the dependence of the Colonies upon Great Britain and to separate them from her; an event which would be ruinous and destructive to both, and which we, therefore, pray God long to avert. And we have abundant reason to believe that such would be the jealousies and uneasiness of all other denominations of Christians among us that we cannot but tremble at the prospect of the dreadful consequences that could not be prevented from taking place upon the establishment of an American Episcopate. We have so long tasted the sweets of civil and religious liberty, that we cannot be easily prevailed upon to submit to a yoke of bondage which neither we nor our fathers were able to bear.

Besides all this we can assure you that the Episcopal Provinces of Maryland and Virginia do not appear to desire Bishops among them; it is only the request of a few discontented missionaries in the Middle Colonies; the laity of their communion, [a few high flyers excepted,] dread the power of a Bishop's court as much as any other denomination, and have a high sense of liberty, civil and religious. It, therefore, appears to us highly unreasonable to gratify these persons in a matter that is evidently dangerous to the rights and privileges of so many of his Majesty's most dutiful loyal subjects. These are some of the many reasons which we have for our opposition to the proposed Episcopate, and the views by which we are actuated in this matter.

We have reason to believe from the best intelligence we can collect, both on your and our side of the Atlantic, that although the design of sending over Bishops to America may be laid aside for the present, yet the Bishops in England have the matter much at heart, and are daily watching for a favorable opportunity of carrying it into execution, which is further confirmed by the large appropriations of land and money both here and elsewhere, for the support of them in all their pomp and splendor. It therefore appears to us our duty to be constantly on our guard; but as our distance from the throne and Parliament renders us unable to do any thing to prevent it, until it be too late, we are obliged to depend upon the interest and vigilence of our friends in Great Britain who are engaged in the same common cause with ourselves. Permit us, therefore, Gentlemen, to request the favour of you to unite your vigilance and endeavors with ours: and to open and continue a correspondence with us; and to transmit to us from time to time the earliest intelligence you can get relative to this or any other matter which you may judge either necessary or advantageous to us; and direct your letters to the Rev. Dr. Allison and Rev. Mr. Ewing in Philadelphia, to the Rev. Dr. Rodgers and Rev. Mr. Treat in New York, and to the Rev. Mr. Whitman and Rev. Mr. Welles in Connecticut.

To the Dissenting Committee.

Mr. Rodgers is requested to transmit a copy of this letter to our Brethren in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 o'clock P. M., the Convention met according to adjournment, and P. P. S. Q. S.

The Rev. Messrs. Ross, Welles, Whitman, Smalley, and James Lockwood are appointed a Committee in Connecticut to carry on epistolary correspondence with our friends in London, with our Brethren in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, the Presbytery of Boston, etc.; the Rev. Messrs. Rodgers, Joseph Treat, and Caldwell a similar Com-

mittee in the Province of New York and the Jerseys, and the Rev. Dr. Allison, with the Rev. Messrs. Treat and Ewing, another Committee in Pennsylvania for the same purpose.

Adjourned till Thursday, the 14th day of Sept. next, which will be in the year 1769, to meet at New Haven, Connecticut. Concluded with prayer.

1769.

New Haven, Connecticut, Sept. 14, 1769.

The Rev'd General Convention of Delegates from the Consociated Churches of Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment. *Ubi post preces sed't.*

From the Churches in Connecticut, the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Taylor, the Rev. Mr. Edward Dorr, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Perry, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Lockwood, the Rev. Mr. Elijah Lathrop, the Rev. Mr. Jedidiah Mills, the Rev. Mr. Noah Whetmore, the Rev. Mr. Benjamin Woodbridge, the Rev. Mr. Nicholas Street, the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Ingersol, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Sherwood.

From the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the Rev. Mr. Richard Treat, the Rev. Mr. John Craighead, the Rev. Mr. James Sproat, the Rev. Mr. William Tennent, the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, the Rev. Mr. James Caldwell, the Rev. Mr. Solomon Mead.

Dr. Rodgers opened the Convention by a sermon from Acts 11 : 24.

Mr. Richard Treat was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Dorr and Mr. Caldwell, Scribes.

Voted, That the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, of New York, and the Rev. Noah Welles, of Stamford, be standing Registers, appointed by this Convention, to receive all papers belonging to them, and to transmit to all future Conventions the Minutes of the preceding ones.

On looking over the Minutes of the last Convention, it appears that there was a letter agreed upon to be sent to the Committee of Dissenters in London, requesting their kind interposition in favour of these Churches, and this Convention, apprehending their letter has unhappily miscarried, desire the Rev. Dr. Rodgers to take a copy of the same and sign it as our Register, and transmit it to the Committee of Dissenters in London according to the desire of the last Convention.

Voted, That the Rev. James Sproat be added to the Committee of correspondence in Philadelphia, and the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, and the Rev. Joseph Treat be a Committee in New York, that the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, and the Rev. William Tennent be a Committee in New Jersey, and that the Rev. Messrs. Noah Welles and Moses Mather be a Committee in Connecticut, and that the Committee in Connecticut correspond with the ministers of Boston and New Hampshire; the Committee at New York with the ministers of Rhode Island and South Carolina; the Committee in New Jersey with the ministers of Scotland; and the Committee at Philadelphia with the ministers in England and Ireland.

Adjourned till the first Wednesday in October, at 11 o'clock, which will be in the year 1770, to meet at Elizabeth Town in New Jersey.

Concluded with prayer.

1770.

Elizabethtown, Oct. 3, 1770.

The Rev. General Convention of Delegates from the Consociated Churches of Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment. *Post preces sederunt.* From Connecticut, the

Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Taylor, Noah Benedict, Stephen Hawley; from the Synod, the Rev. Messrs. John Blair, Charles Beaty, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Azariah Horton.

The General Convention was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, from Ezek. 47: 9–11.

The Rev.d Gent.n from Connecticut produced certificates testifying they were delegates by their respective Associations to be members of the General Convention.

The Rev.d Gent.n from the Synod of New York and Philada. through the neglect of their clerk, on whom they depended for the certificate of their delegation, could not procure it, but the General Convention received satisfactory evidence that those whose names have been mentioned were delegated by the Synod.

Mr. Taylor was chosen Chairman, and Mr. McWhorter and Mr. Hawley were chosen Scribes. Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Oct. 4, 1770.

Oct. 4. Met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S.

The Rev. Mr. Robert Ross and the Rev. Mr. William Tennent, Jun., from Connecticut, and the Rev. Mr. John Ewing, Dr. Witherspoon, William Tennent, Sen'r, the Rev. Mr. Halsey, and the Rev. Mr. Beaty, from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, are now come.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last Convention be read.

It was inquired whether Dr. Rodgers had complied with the appointment of the last General Convention at New Haven: to transmit a letter from them to the Committee of Dissenters in London. And we are informed that he complied with the said appointment; and has in answer a letter from said Committee, signed by Thomas Cotton, Secretary, which was produced and read, and is as follows,

Rev.d Sir:

"The favor of your letter, signed as Register, in the name and by order of the Reverend General Convention of Delegates from the Consociated Churches of Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met at New Haven, 14th September, 1769, did not come to the hands of Jasper Mauduit, Esq. [Chairman of the Committee for managing civil affairs of the Dissenters] for upwards of nine months, and he having summoned a meeting of the said Committee they took your letter into consideration, and have ordered me [who have the honor of being their Secretary] to acquaint you that the Committee is fully sensible of the many civil and religious inconveniences that would arise from the introduction of Diocesan Bishops into America; and therefore beg leave to assure you of their most vigilant attention to oppose and frustrate any such design; at the same time they have the pleasure of informing you that they have made the strictest inquiries, and are able from the very best authorities to assure you that there is no such design on foot, at present: and that they hope government are so sensible of the confusion such a step would make among our American brethren, that however warmly some of our Bishops may wish for it, and express their desires in their sermons on public occasions, yet the Committee verily believe they will never be able to accomplish them. But that however as you and they are engaged in one common cause, the defence of civil and religious liberty, you may depend upon it, that if any attempts are made to revive this design, the Committee will carefully watch and exert their utmost endeavors to prevent the carrying it into execution.

I am, Sir, further directed by the Committee to acquaint you that they shall be very ready and willing to continue a correspondence with you, and from time to time to transmit to you the earliest intelligence they can get relative to this matter. And if hereafter you have occasion to communicate anything to them, you will please to direct your letters to Jasper Mauduit, Esq., in Hackney near London, or to Mr. Thomas Cotton, Attorney at Law, in Hackney.

Signed in the name and by the order of the said Committee,

Thomas Cotton, Secretary.

4th August, 1770.

I have sent letters of the same tenor and date to the Rev. Dr. Allison, and Mr. Whiteman.

A letter of same tenor and date from said Committee, was received by the Committee of the General Convention in Philada.

Mr. Beaty, Mr. Ewing, and Mr. Benedict are appointed a Committee to prepare an answer to the Committee of Dissenters in London, and bring it in, in the afternoon. After the General Convention had maturely considered the expediency of having an agent in London, concluded that it was useful and important. And it is recommended to all the members of the General Convention, and in particular to Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Welles, Mr. Ewing, Dr. Allison, and Mr. Beaty to endeavor to find out a proper person in London, for that purpose to propose to the next General Convention.

The General Convention upon reading the Minutes are informed that the Committee in Connecticut, viz., Mr. Welles and Mr. Mather have wrote to the ministers in Boston and New Hampshire, but their answers, if there be any, are not come to hand.

It being represented to the General Convention, that the design and importance of it are not understood by many ministers at a distance, by which means, it is not so extensive as it might be, and as is necessary to its greater usefulness; wherefore the General Convention request the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, as he is now on his journey to the eastward, that he take all proper opportunities to represent to our Brethren in the Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, the utility of the Convention, and the importance of their uniting with us. And it is ordered that he be furnished with a copy of the plan of the General Convention by the Scribes. Mr. Blair, Mr. Ross, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Caldwell, are appointed by the General Convention, to wait upon the General Association of Connecticut, which is to meet at Reading on the 3d Tuesday in June next—to converse with said Association and endeavor to impress upon them the utility of continuing the General Convention, and the importance of a punctual attendance upon it. And also Mr. Beaty and Mr. Hawley wait upon the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, [which is to meet at Philadelphia, the third Tuesday of May next,] for the same purpose. And Dr. Bellamy and Mr. Trumbull, of North Haven, are requested to join these gentlemen for the same purpose. Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 o'clock P. M. met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S. Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

The Committee appointed to prepare an answer to the Committee of Dissenters in London, accordingly brought in a draught of a letter, which being read, corrected, and approved, is as follows:

Sir:

Your favors of the 4th of August, 1770, in answer to ours of the 14th Sept. 1769, came safe to the hands of Dr. Allison and Dr. Rodgers, and were laid before the General Convention of Delegates from the Consociated Churches of Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia. It gives us particular satisfaction to find you embarked in the same cause with us, and that you are so sensible of the many inconveniences that would attend the introduction of Diocesan Bishops into America as to engage your most vigilant attention to oppose and frustrate such a design. It is no less pleasing to us to be assured from so good authority that such a scheme is laid aside for the present. Yet we have sufficient reason to believe that the measure is so desirable to the Bishops in England and the Episcopal clergy with us that they will lose no opportunity of carrying it into execution, and therefore will privately as well as publicly countenance every measure and improve every advantage that has even a remote and distant tendency to subjugate the colonies to Episcopal domination, as this

will easily pave the way for the destruction of our civil liberties. We have but too much reason to know that Diocesan Bishops with their inferior clergy have always been the tools of arbitrary power, and ready to fall in with and promote the views of a minister of state, however detrimental they may be to other denominations of Christians. In this point of light we view the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in procuring grants of land vested in them for the purpose of supporting the Episcopal clergy in the townships laid out in New Hampshire of late years although few or no Episcopalians reside in them, and in granting considerable salaries to missionaries in the most populous parts of our colonies, even where there are faithful ministers of other denominations settled and but a few families of their religious persuasion, while at the same time they are neglecting to supply great numbers of their clergy not only in Scotland but even in England. The reason is plain; the form of church government is fixed in those places, but here they have hopes by their bounties to be able to form and fix the government to their own minds, and in time subject us to Episcopal jurisdiction. Their partiality also appears very flagrant in neglecting to send missionaries among the poor benighted Indians on our borders, although their money was partly designed for their relief, and the many distressed inhabitants on our frontiers who are perishing for want of knowledge, having few to break the bread of life among them. The peculiar care of the Episcopalians among ourselves where they have any influence, to fill all the places of power and trust in our various governments with those of their own denomination, or at least those who are in their interest, seems to us evidently calculated to promote their grand design, and therefore fills us with uneasy apprehensions. Upon the whole, these considerations make it evident to us that their views are not so much to promote Christianity as the establishment of Episcopal church government in the colonies, and therefore engage our constant watchfulness lest they should take advantage of our being off our guard to accomplish a design, which, however pleasing to them, will be attended with the most lamentable consequences to the interests of true religion and liberty among us.

As we shall always look upon ourselves greatly obliged by your continued correspondence, please to direct any intelligence or advice you may think proper to transmit to us, to the Rev. Dr. Allison in Philadelphia, Dr. John Rodgers in New York, and Mr. Whiteman in Hartford, Connecticut.

Signed by order of the General Convention
Nathaniel Taylor, Chairman

Elizabethtown, October 3d, 1770.

P. S. We also herewith send you an account of only one instance of Episcopal oppression in the colony of Georgia, which may show what we are to expect in case their wished for plan should be carried into execution, and that Mr. Zubly whose congregation has been thus treated, is a gentleman of an established reputation for learning, prudence and piety. [*See* Appendix, No. 2.*]

Ordered, that the letter be transcribed and signed by the Chairman, and sent to Dr. Rodgers and a duplicate to Dr. Allison, to be transmitted to Jasper Mauduit, Esq., in Hackney, near London; or to Mr. Thomas Cotton, attorney at Law in Hackney. Appointed that Mr. Halsey, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. McWhorter, be a Committee, to write to gentlemen in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and the Carolinas, in order that they may obtain all the instances of Episcopal oppression in said Colonies they can, and prepare them to be laid before our next General Convention. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Hubbard are desired to collect the instances of the lenity of their government with regard to the Episcopal Dissenters therein. And the Committee in Connecticut, viz., Mr. Welles and Mr. Mather, are desired to write to such ministers in the eastern governments, as they may think proper, to obtain instances of the same nature.

Adjourned till the first Wednesday in Sept., at 10 o'clock, which will be in the year 1771, to meet at Norwalk. Concluded with prayer.

* This record has not been found in the Appendix to the Minutes.

1771.

Norwalk, Sept. 4, 1771.

The Rev. the General Convention of the Delegates from the several Associations in Connecticut, and of the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to adjournment. Ubi P. P. Sedt.: From the Association of the Western District of Fairfield, the Rev. Mr. Moses Dickinson and the Rev. Mr. William Tennent; from the Eastern District of Fairfield, the Rev. Mr. Robert Ross and the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Bartlett; from the Association of Litchfield County, the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Taylor and the Rev. Judah Champion; from the North Association of Hartford County, the Rev. Mr. Theodore Hinsdale; from the Association of New Haven County, the Rev. Mr. Elizur Goodrich and the Rev. Mr. Amos Fowler.

From the Synod, the Rev.d Dr. Francis Allison, the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, Rev. Mr. Joseph Montgomery, Rev. Mr. John Close, Rev. Mr. Jedediah Chapman, Rev. Mr. John Woodhull, Rev. Mr. Charles Beaty, Rev. Mr. James Sproat, Rev. Mr. James Caldwell, Rev. Mr. Solomon Mead, Rev. Mr. William Mills.

The Convention was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Joseph Montgomery, from Ps. 2. 6.

The Rev. Dr. Rodgers was chosen Chairman.

The Rev. Messrs. Caldwell and Champion were chosen Scribes.

Dr. Allison reports, that he had received a letter from Mr. Thomas Cotton, Secretary to the Committee of Dissenters in London, in answer to the letter sent by the Convention last year, which is not present, but that the substance of it was,—that the Committee did not know of any particular attempts making on their side of the water to introduce an American Episcopate, at present; they would however carefully observe the motions of the friends of that scheme, and they desired us to do the same on this side, and communicate to them whatever attempts are making here.

The appointment of an agent in London, which was referred from the last Convention, was now considered, and after mature deliberation it was unanimously determined for the present not to appoint an agent, but to continue our correspondence with the Committee of Dissenters as before.

And Dr. Allison and Mr. Dickinson are desired to bring in the draught of a letter to the said Committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Sept. 5, 1771.

5th day: 8 o'clock, the Convention met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S. Also the Rev. Mr. John Brainerd and the Rev. Mr. Jeremiah Halsey from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia are now come.

Ordered to read the minutes of the last sederunt.

It is now reported to this Convention that Dr. Witherspoon complied with the appointment of last year in representing to the ministers in Boston the necessity of extending this Convention, but we are not yet fully informed what success he met with.

Mr. Ross and Mr. Taylor report that they waited upon the General Association, agreeable to the appointment of last year, and were favorably received.

Mr. Beaty also fulfilled his appointment to the Synod, and was also received in like manner.

Mr. Welles, one of the standing Registers for this Convention is desired to lay the Minutes of the several meetings of this General Convention

before the General Association of this Colony of Connecticut at their next meeting, and afterward from year to year, if desired.

The Committee appointed last year to collect instances of oppression or lenity with respect to religious denominations in the several governments, appear to have taken considerable pains to answer the ends of their appointment, and related many instances and facts to this purpose. But as the good intention of the Convention in this affair is not yet completed, and inasmuch as it would be of great advantage to this Convention, and the common interest of mankind to be acquainted with the religious constitutions of the several governments on this continent—we do appoint for that purpose, for the colony of Nova Scotia, the Rev. Dr. Allison; for the colony of New Hampshire, the Rev. Mr. William Tennent, of Norwalk; for the colony of Massachusetts, the Rev. Mr. Noah Welles; for the colony of Rhode Island, the Rev. Mr. Robert Ross; for the colony of Connecticut, the Rev. Mr. Elizur Goodrich; for the province of New York, the Rev. Dr. Rodgers; for the province of New Jersey, the Rev. Mr. John Brainerd; for the province of Pennsylvania, the Rev. Mr. James Sproat; for the government of New Castle and province of Maryland, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Montgomery; for the dominion of Virginia, the Rev. Mr. James Caldwell; for the province of North Carolina, the Rev. Mr. Jeremiah Halsey; for the province of Georgia, the Rev. Mr. Alexander McWhorter: who are desired respectively to obtain the Charters, Laws, and Statutes of those Colonies, and to extract from them whatever respects ecclesiastical affairs; also the usages and customs of those Colonies, by which the religious liberties of any denomination have been, or now are, either enlarged or abridged, and lay the result of their inquiry before our next Convention.

And the Rev. Mr. John Maltby, of South Carolina, who is present is desired to collect materials agreeable to the above resolution, from the Charter, Laws, and usages of that province, and transmit the same to Dr. Allison in Philadelphia, by him to be prepared for, and laid before the next Convention.

Dr. Allison brought in the draught of a letter to the Committee of Dissenters in London, which being read, was approved, and the Chairman is desired to sign two copies, of which he is to send one and Dr. Allison the other, to Jasper Mauduit, Esq., near London. The letter is as follows:

Norwalk, in Connecticut, 5 Sept., 1771.

"Sir,

We are informed that a letter in answer to ours of the 3d of Oct. 1770, by favor of Mr. Cotton, came to Dr. Allison, who entrusted the care of it to a person who has neglected to lay it before this Convention, and that you therein promised to have a watchful care of our liberties, and to give us timely notice if attempts were still continued to establish Diocesan Episcopacy in the Colonies; and as you desired us to give you the earliest intelligence of any attempts that might be made in the Colonies for this purpose, with the sincerest gratitude we acknowledge your friendship, and beg leave to inform you that we are still greatly alarmed. The whole Bench of Bishops, and many bigots with you are constantly tiezed by our missionaries to procure an American Episcopate.

The late Arch-Bishop Secker, if we remember right, promised that if any province petitioned for a Bishop, it would be granted; and great pains have been taken to engage the clergy in Virginia and Maryland to petition for this favour. That some of the clergy in Virginia formed petitions for a Bishop, and that four out of twelve that were convened at that time protested against the measure, must be facts now well known in London, as the debates on this subject among the Episcopal clergy themselves run high, and are printed in the public papers in Williamsburgh and Philadelphia;* two of the protestors are professors in the College of William and Mary,†

* Philadelphia Gazette, August 8, 1771.

† These professors were the Rev. Messrs. Gwatkin and Henly. They both protested against an American Episcopate in the Ecclesiastical Convention of Virginia in 1771,

and the house of Burgesses in that colony, *nemine contradicente*, publicly voted their thanks to the protesters for making this seasonable stand for liberty. What the issue of this affair may be in the province is hard to determine, but we are informed that Mr. Horrax, a clergyman, is sent to England with these petitions, and the people of the colony are greatly alarmed lest he be sent back to them as their Bishop.

The petitioning clergy affirm in the course of their public debates with their brethren, that all opposition among the Dissenters has ceased, and that the people of New England, of all others are now most anxious to have a Bishop established among them, than which assertion nothing can be more false, unless they mean by the people of New England, the missionaries and a few of their warm adherents. So far from this, that from the best information we can collect, the colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut have given instructions to their agents to oppose an American Episcopate, the certainty of which you may easily learn.

A petition was likewise presented by eight of the clergy of Maryland to their Governor, requesting his interest, both in England and his own colony for establishing an Episcopate; and they inform his Excellency that they have prepared petitions for the throne, the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Lord Baltimore, and the Bishop of London for the same purpose. The petition to the Governor is something extraordinary; a copy of which we will send you, and copies of the other petitions, if we can procure them. The Governor refused to admit the petition as an act of the whole clergy of Maryland, and told them that as an American Episcopate must be attended with many and very important consequences he would lay it before the House of Representatives, which greatly mortified them, as they had mentioned that body in it with some disrespect. A circular letter was sent by the petitioners to the other clergy of the province to obtain their permission to put their names to the petitions to be sent to England, which was obtained from a great number without knowing all that was in the petitions; but ten of them laid a remonstrance before the Governor complaining of this conduct. But notwithstanding that neither the Governor nor Assembly have given their approbation, it is said the petitions are sent home. From this account you may clearly see the great industry of these gentlemen, and much more we have reason to suspect is done by them, in the other provinces, which has not so fully come to our knowledge; but from a disagreement among themselves, what we now write you has become matter of public notoriety. We now stand in need, if ever, of the assistance of all our friends to use their utmost skill and interest to avert this impending blow that so surely threatens our civil and religious liberties, and which if not prevented, must again inflame all our colonies, that have so lately regained the blessings of peace.

We would by no means be understood as if we would endeavor to prevent an American Bishop or Arch-Bishop or Patriarch, or whatever else they would see fit to send, provided other denominations could be safe from their severity and encroachments; but this we think impossible: for no act of Parliament can secure us from the tyranny of their jurisdiction, as an act of Parliament may, and no doubt will be repealed at the importunate solicitations of the Bishops and others, nor can we have any security against being obliged, in time, to support their dignity, and to pay taxes to relieve the Society in paying their missionaries; and the Governors of our several colonies must either be submissive in all things to their will and pleasure, or be harassed and persecuted with continual complaints to all in power on your side of the water. In a word, we think Ecclesiastics vested with such powers dangerous to our civil and religious liberties; and it seems highly probable that it will in time break that strong connection which now happily subsists between Great Britain and her colonies, who are never like to shake off their dependence on the mother country until they have Bishops established among them.

As we shall always acknowledge that we are under the greatest obligations to you for your friendship in this important affair, and earnestly desire the continuance of your correspondence, please direct any intelligence you may think proper to transmit to us, to the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison in Philadelphia, or to the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers in New York, or to the Rev. Mr. Elnathan Whiteman, Connecticut.

Signed in the name and by order of the General Convention, by

JOHN RODGERS, *Chairman.*

P. S.—We have with pleasure observed that some of our friends on your side of the water have made some just remarks, in the London Chronicle, on the Bishop of

and afterwards the former published a pamphlet with the same view, under the following title: 'A Letter to the Clergy of New York and Philadelphia, occasioned by an Address to the Episcopalians in Virginia. By the Rev. Thomas Gwatkin, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in William and Mary College, Williamsburgh, 1772, pp. 28.'—Miller's Memoirs of the Rev. John Rodgers, D. D.

Oxford's sermon before the Society last February. They highly merit the thanks of the American colonies, and as we esteem ourselves indebted to your friendship for this favor we beg you will be pleased to present our thanks to the person or persons that did so much justice to our cause.

To JASPER MAUDUIT, Esq., Chairman of the Dissenting Committee—to be communicated."

Adjourned to meet at Elizabethtown, the last Wednesday but one in September, 1772, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

1772.

Elizabethtown, Sept. 23, 1772.

The General Convention met according to adjournment. U. P. P., present from Connecticut, the Rev. Messrs. Noah Welles, Samuel Clark, Cotton Mather Smith, Noah Williston, Thomas W. Bray, Hezekiah Ripley, Asahel Hart, Ebenezer Baldwin; from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Montgomery, Rev. Mr. William Foster, Rev. Mr. James Sproat, Rev. Mr. John Brainerd, Rev. Mr. William Tennent, Rev. Doctr. Allison, Rev. Doctr. Witherspoon Rev. Mr. John Ewing, Rev. Mr. Jeremiah Halsey, Rev. Doctr. Rodgers, Rev. Mr. Alexander McWhorter, Rev. Mr. James Caldwell, Rev. Mr. Joseph Treat, Rev. Mr. William Mills, Rev. Mr. John Close. Mr. Clark opened the Convention with a sermon, from 2 Cor. 4. 1.

The Rev. Mr. Cotton Mather Smith was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Ewing and Mr. Baldwin were chosen Scribes.

The Rev. Mr. Welles informed the Convention, that agreeable to the instructions of the last session, he sent to the General Association of the colony of Connecticut, the Records of this General Convention, which was well approved by the General Association, who also desired that the proceedings of this Convention be from year to year laid before them.

Dr. Allison produced the letter from the Deputation of the Dissenters in England, which was referred to in the Minutes of the last sessions; which letter is ordered to be recorded in the Appendix to the Minutes of the Convention. [The letter is as follows:]

Rev. Sir:—

Your favor to our Secretary, Mr. Cotton, dated October 10th last, he produced and read to our Committee who referred to us to give an answer thereto. We beg you will depend upon it that the Committee will ever carefully watch against any attempts that may be made to introduce Diocesan Bishops into America. We are sensible indeed the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts and the Episcopal clergy are very desirous of it, but at the same time, are fully persuaded that administration have no such intention at present, and that no steps relating thereto have been taken by them since our last. If any petition for that purpose should be agitated in your or in any other of the colonies, we desire you will endeavor to counterwork it, and if such a one should come over here, the Committee will be sure to oppose it.

With regard to the affair you desired our thoughts of, as to your having an agent here, it is the opinion of the Committee that a proper person qualified to be your agent in the manner specified in your letter, would be very difficult to be found; and if such a one could be found, would not answer your end, as he would not have the weight with administration as this Committee would; for whatever he might at any time say, they would look upon him as an agent for the colonies and under their influence, whereas no such bias could be imputed to this Committee.

We hope you will rest assured that we will always exert ourselves for your benefit, in defence of your religious liberties:

And are, Rev. Sir,

Your most humble servants,

Richard Cooke, Edward Hunt, Jasper Mauduit
Robert Lewin Jas. Bay French Wm. Bowden
Thomas Lucas

The Rev. Dr. Allison
January 22, 1771.

Dr. Allison laid before the Convention another letter from the Committee of Deputation of Dissenters in England, in answer to the letter of this Convention, dated Sept. 5, 1771, to Jasper Mauduit, Esq., which is as follows:

Rev. Sirs,

Your letter of the 15th of Nov. last, directed to our late worthy Chairman, Jasper Mauduit, Esq., now deceased, and therein enclosing one from the General Convention, dated 5th of Sept. last, was delivered to our Secretary Mr. Cotton; who laid it before our Committee, and they have referred it to us to return you an answer thereto, which we embrace the first opportunity of doing.

We are not ignorant, and are sorry that you have any reason to be alarmed from the restlessness of the missionaries and their bigoted adherents, but hope you will depend upon the constant attention of our Committee to your interest to prevent, as much as in us lies, a Bishop from being sent over to you. And we do verily believe, that if Mr. Horrax comes over with such a view, he will go over without his errand, for we can with pleasure inform you, that since the receipt of your last, we have again made the strictest inquiry, and are able from undoubted authority to assure you, that though petitions have been presented, yet we do not believe they will meet with any success; that however the Bishops and clergy may labor the point, the persons in power do not seem to be at all for it at present, and we hope never will. And we must remind you, that in our last we desired you, if you found any petitions were handed about to be signed, you would send over counter petitions, signed by as many respectable persons as you could, which we think you should do as soon as possible, that they may be made use of, if needful. And we beg you would rest assured of our continued endeavors to oppose the carrying such a design into execution. We have sent a letter, to the same purport as this, to the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, that they may be communicated by you or him, to the General Convention. And whenever you are disposed to correspond with us, be pleased to direct your letters to our present Chairman, Thomas Lucas, Esq., at Gray's Hospital, London.

We are, with great esteem, Rev. Sir, your most obedient servants,

1st March, 1772.

Thomas Lucas	Wm. Bowden
Jas. Bogle French	Robert Maitland
Richard Cooke	Benjamin Bond, Jr.
R. Lewin	Edward Hunt

Dr. Allison produced extracts from the laws of Nova Scotia, relative to religious liberty, agreeable to the order of the last Convention.

Mr. Welles also laid before the Convention similar extracts from the laws of the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

The Scribes with the Rev. Mr. Halsey, are appointed to prepare a draught of a letter to the Committee of Deputation of the Dissenters in London, and to bring it in to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Sept. 24: 8 o'clock, met according to adjournment; post preces sederunt qui supra, except Dr. Witherspoon. The Minutes of the last sederunt were read. Dr. Rodgers then produced extracts from the laws of New York; Mr. Brainerd from the laws of New Jersey; Mr. Sproat from the laws of Pennsylvania; and Mr. Caldwell from the laws of Virginia, respecting religious liberty, all which were read.

As the Convention have not received any extracts from the Charters, laws, etc., of the province of New Hampshire, the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut, the provinces of North and South Carolina, Maryland and Georgia, the gentlemen appointed for that purpose the last sessions are still desired to prosecute that business, excepting that by reason of Mr. Tennent's removal, Mr. Baldwin is appointed for New Hampshire, and by reason of the death of Mr. Maltby, Mr. Halsey is desired to make extracts for South Carolina. As it is apprehended that the accounts of the state of religious liberty in the various colonies, may be made more complete, if longer time was allowed to the ministers who have drawn them up, it is therefore

agreed, that they review, and make such alterations and additions as they shall judge necessary to answer the design of this Convention, and have them in readiness for their inspection at their next sessions. And it is particularly recommended to them, to ascertain the number of the inhabitants in each of the colonies, with the proportion of the Episcopalians to the Non-Episcopalians.

The draught of a letter to the Committee of Dissenters in England was read, and after amendments, was approved by the Convention and is as follows:

Gentlemen:—

Your letter of 1st March last, directed to the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, [a duplicate of which was also directed to the Rev. Dr. Rodgers,] was communicated by him to the General Convention, now sitting at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

The assurances you give us that the Episcopalians are not likely to succeed for the present, in their applications for an American Episcopate, afford us great satisfaction. We shall depend upon the constant attention of your Committee, to prevent as far as lies in your power, the establishment of Diocesan Episcopacy among us; and we shall always acknowledge with gratitude, your zeal for the cause of religious liberty on this extensive continent. We have abundant reason to believe, that the bigoted Episcopalians on this side the water, have by no means dropt the project, but will ever be restless in their attempts to accomplish their purpose, till they either obtain their design, or repeated disappointments oblige them to abandon it: though it has not come to our knowledge, that anything new of this kind has been attempted in America the year past.

In your last you advise that if any petitions should be handed about to be signed, we should send over counter petitions, by as many respectable persons as we can, which you think ought to be done as soon as possible. But the late rejection and miscarriage of their petition to the throne, [of which we have lately been assured,] happily relieves us from the necessity of this measure for the present. We must beg leave to suggest to you that we cannot but think that if the numbers of the Non-Episcopalians in the several colonies on this continent, and their vast superiority to the Episcopalians in this respect were better known in Great Britain, than perhaps they now are, it might be of very considerable service to the cause of religious liberty among us. We are sorry that it is not in our power to state this matter accurately at present; but we determine as soon as possible, to furnish ourselves with such materials as shall enable us to do it with sufficient exactness, which we hope to accomplish by our next Convention, and we shall take care to communicate to you the result of our inquiries; from which you will easily see what credit is to be given to the magnified accounts the missionaries frequently send home of the numbers of their adherents.

And we cannot but think it would be greatly advantageous to the common cause, to hold up to the view of the public our numbers and importance as often as there shall be a convenient opportunity.

If the intelligence we propose to send you should be communicated to the public through the channel of some of your newspapers or magazines, which circulate farthest through the kingdom, we presume it might give more just ideas of the true state of things on this continent, that it is probable many at present have.

You have writers of abilities among you, and we cannot doubt their readiness to serve so important a cause as that of religious liberty.

If some of them would undertake to lay this matter before the public on your side of the water, they will merit our grateful acknowledgments, and we shall take care to furnish them with materials that may be depended upon.

Please to direct your letter to the Rev. Dr. F. Allison, in Philadelphia, or the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers in New York.

Signed in the name and by order of the General Convention

COTTON MATHER SMITH, *Chairman.*

Mr. Welles is desired to obtain intelligence concerning the number of the Episcopalians and Non-Episcopalians in the province of Nova Scotia.

Adjourned to meet at Fairfield, in Connecticut, on the first Wednesday in Sept. 1773, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Concluded with prayer.

1773.

[*Stamford, Sept. 1, 1773.*]

The General Convention of Delegates from the Rev. Associations in Connecticut, and from the Rev. Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met according to the time of adjournment, Sept. 1, 1773, at Stamford it being found inconvenient to meet at Fairfield, as appointed.

Post preces sederunt, from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. John Rodgers, Messrs. Elihu Spencer, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Benjamin Hait, John Close, Ichabod Lewis, Jeremiah Halsey, Samuel Mills. From Connecticut, the Rev. Messrs. Moses Dickinson, Jonathan Lee, Cotton Mather Smith, Samuel Lockwood, Robert Robbins, Robert Ross, Nathaniel Bartlett Elizur Goodrich, William Russel, Joseph Strong, and Noah Welles.

Dr. Witherspoon opened the General Convention with a sermon, from 2 Cor. 4. 13.

Dr. Witherspoon was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Russel and Mr. McWhorter, Scribes.

The Registers reported that the proceedings of last year's General Convention at Elizabethtown, were laid before the General Association of Connecticut, and before the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and were well accepted.

Dr. Rodgers and the two Scribes are appointed a Committee to prepare a draught of a letter to the Committee of Deputation of Dissenters in England, to be brought in next sederunt.

Proceeded to inquire of the gentlemen appointed to make extracts from the Charters, Laws, &c., of the several colonies respecting the state of religious liberty in them, and finding some progress is made in this matter, it is ordered that these extracts be laid before the General Convention to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Sept. 2, 1773.

Sept. 2, 1773: 8 o'clock A. M. P. P. S. Q. S. Ordered that the Minutes of the last sederunt be read.

Messrs. James Cogswell and Joseph Huntington, of Connecticut are now come.

According to the agreement of last year, that the gentlemen who had made extracts from the Charters, &c., should review them, render them more complete, and ascertain the proportion of Episcopalians to Non-Episcopalians. Dr. Rodgers laid before us extracts from the laws of the province of New York; Mr. Goodrich from the laws of Connecticut; Mr. Welles from the laws of Massachusetts Bay—and with respect to the number of Episcopalians in proportion to Non-Episcopalians, Mr. Welles, who was appointed to this matter in Nova Scotia, has not been able to accomplish it, and requests that some other gentleman be appointed to this business in his room: accordingly Mr. Huntington is desired to obtain an account of this matter, and lay it before the next General Convention.

Mr. Baldwin, who was appointed to make the extracts from the laws of New Hampshire, has not yet accomplished it, but proposes to do it, and therefore his appointment is continued, and he is requested to lay his extracts before our next Convention.

Mr. Ross, who was appointed for Rhode Island, has not yet obtained proper materials for the history desired, wherefore his appointment is continued.

Mr. Sproat and Mr. Montgomery, who were appointed for the provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, not being here, we are not favored with the extracts, and their appointments are continued.

Mr. Caldwell's appointment is continued to make additional extracts from Virginia.

Mr. Halsey, who was appointed for North and South Carolina, has not yet accomplished it, and his appointment is continued with respect to North Carolina; and the Rev. Mr. William Tennent of Charlestown, being here present, is desired to make extracts from the laws of South Carolina, and give us an history of the progress and state of religious liberty in that colony, and send them to our next General Convention.

Mr. Brainerd sent extracts which he had made from the laws of the colony of New Jersey; and Mr. Spencer is desired to complete that matter according to the design of the Convention.

Mr. McWhorter laid before us extracts from the laws of Georgia.

Dr. Rodgers is requested to obtain what information he can respecting the state of religious liberty in West Florida.

Dr. Witherspoon is desired to obtain like information from Canada.

The several gentlemen who are appointed to this business are desired to proceed and render the respective extracts and histories as perfect as possible, to be laid before our next General Convention.

The Committee appointed to bring in a draught of a letter to the Committee of Deputation of Dissenters in England, brought one in which was read, corrected, and approved,—and is as follows:

Gentlemen:—

We have not been favored with an answer to our last to you of Sept. 27th, 1772, from whence we conclude that it may probably have miscarried, though it was followed some time after by a duplicate. We have the firmest confidence in your friendship and attachment to the cause of religious liberty on this extensive continent, and that you will carefully watch the motions of its Episcopal adversaries on your and our side of the water, who we have the greatest reason to think have their grand object of an American Episcopate still in view, notwithstanding the discouragements they have met with respecting its immediate accomplishment. They wait only a favorable opportunity of renewing their attempts, and, if possible effecting their design, big with the most fatal mischiefs to this growing country.

We are taking all possible pains to ascertain the number of Episcopalians and their proportion to the Non-Episcopalians of different denominations in the several colonies, and have made some progress in it; but we find it a work of no small labor and difficulty to do it with proper precision.

We find by a paper read before us at our present meeting, that the Episcopalians in the colony of New York bear the proportion of about one to twenty of its present inhabitants. By another of the same kind respecting the colony of Connecticut it appears they do not bear a greater proportion; and in the provinces of New Jersey and Pennsylvania their proportionable numbers are less; and in the Massachusetts government, Rhode Island, and province of New Hampshire, they are much less still; and in the Southern colonies where Episcopacy is established, viz.: Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia, the Non-Episcopalians are in some of them a majority, and in the rest a large and growing proportion.

We are pursuing this important design, and promise ourselves the pleasure of effecting it with a greater degree of accuracy before our next meeting, where you may expect to hear farther from us on this subject.

We beg leave also to inform you that we are collecting the state of religious liberty in the several colonies on this continent, and its progress in each of them from their first settlement, which may be capable of important uses in the grand struggle we or posterity may be called to make in this glorious cause, in which the happiness of thousands yet unborn is so deeply interested.

Your known zeal against the unjust encroachments of Episcopal domination, supersedes the necessity of our repeating our requests that you will continue your wonted care on this head.

A line from you will be esteemed an additional favor; and which be pleased to

direct to the Rev. Dr. Allison in Philadelphia, or the Rev. Dr. Rodgers in New York.

Signed in the name and by order of the General Convention, by
JOHN WITHERSPOON, *Chairman.*

The next meeting of the General Convention is appointed to be at Elizabethtown, the third Wednesday of September, 1774, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

1774.

[*Elizabethtown, Sept. 21, 1774.*]

The General Convention of the delegates from the Consociated Churches in Connecticut, and from the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met at Elizabethtown, Sept. 21, 1774, as appointed P. P. S.

From Connecticut the Rev. Messrs. Ebenezer Baldwin, Thomas Weld Bray, Samuel Eells, Nathaniel Taylor, Jeremiah Day, Samuel Sherwood, William Mackey Tennent, Theodore Hinsdale. From the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, Rev. Drs. Francis Allison & John Rodgers, Rev. Messrs. William Tennent, James Sproat, Israel Read, Benjamin Hait, Jeremiah Halsey, Alexander McWhorter, James Caldwell, Jedediah Chapman, Joseph Montgomery, Patrick Allison.

The General Convention was opened by Mr. Ebenezer Baldwin, with a sermon from Matt. 23.8.

The Rev. Mr. Sherwood was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Day and Mr. Allison were chosen Scribes.

Ordered that the Minutes of the last Convention be read. The proceedings of the last Convention were laid before the General Association and Synod, and were well accepted.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Sept. 22, 1774.

Thursday, 8 o'clock A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S., except Mr. Hait. Ordered that the Minutes of the last session be read.

The Convention proceeded to review the appointments made last year to obtain the knowledge of religious liberty in the several American colonies, and received some satisfactory reports in consequence thereof, particularly from Mr. Huntington, respecting Nova Scotia, and Mr. Welles, respecting Massachusetts Bay, whose diligence and accurate investigation are highly commendable. Mr. Baldwin is requested to pursue his inquiries relating to the province of New Hampshire. And Mr. Halsey is desired to write Mr. McClintock, soliciting his endeavors to furnish and obtain full information on the same subject, and transmit it to the next Convention. The respective appointments of Mr. Ross and Mr. Sproat are renewed. Mr. Montgomery reports that he has made some progress in collecting materials concerning the rise and progress of religious liberty, and ascertaining the proportion of dissenters to the members of the established Church in Maryland. His appointment is continued, only Mr. Allison is desired to fix the proportion between the classes of people on the western shore of that province. Mr. Caldwell's appointment is continued. Mr. Halsey delivered a valuable detail concerning the first settlement of North Carolina, and of the ecclesiastical circumstances of the province, in its different periods until this time. Messrs. Caldwell and Allison are requested to write to such acquaintance as they may judge proper in the maritime counties of North Carolina, for a more accurate account of the condition of those counties according to the view of the Convention. Dr. Rodgers is desired to write Mr. Tennent of Charlestown concerning the business

committed to him, and quickening his performance of it. The Doctor is further to beg Mr. Tennent will address some capable persons in Georgia, to acquaint him concerning the state of that province, and transmit the result of his inquiries to us. Dr. Rodgers reports that from certain information, it appears there is yet no ecclesiastical constitution fixed there, nor any laws enacted affecting religious liberty in West Florida.

The gentlemen appointed last year to furnish materials respecting the Jerseys having made no report to the Convention, Mr. McWhorter is desired to undertake and accomplish the matter.

Dr. Rodgers reports that he has been prosecuting his investigations relating to the province of New York, and expects to have them completed for the inspection of the next Convention.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

The Convention met at 3 o'clock, P. M., according to adjournment. U. P. P. S. Q. S. Ordered that the Minutes of the last session be read. Mr. Goodrich having complied in part with his appointment, it is continued, and Mr. Bray is desired to inform him, that the Convention hope he will be able to finish the business committed to him before the next meeting. Dr. Rodgers brought in a paper handed to him by a friend, containing an abstract of the ecclesiastical laws of Barbadoes with some remarks thereon.

It is agreed that a particular history of the several Colleges on the continent, should accompany the accounts drawn up respecting the provinces in which those institutions are erected.

The Convention having received no answer from the Committee of Dissenters in England, to the letters sent there the two preceding years, it is judged inexpedient to write them at this time.

Adjourned to meet at Greenfield, in Connecticut, on the first Wednesday in Sept. 1775.

Concluded with prayer.

1775.

[*Greenfield, Sept. 6, 1775.*]

The Convention of delegates from the Consociated Churches of Connecticut, and the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, met at Greenfield, in Connecticut, Sept. 6, 1775, according to adjournment Present.

From the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, Rev. Messrs. Samuel Mills, Ichabod Lewis.

From Connecticut, Rev. Dr. Welles, Messrs. William Mackey Tennent, Samuel Lockwood, Daniel Brinsmade, Joseph Huntington, Joseph Strong, Robert Ross, Theodore Hinsdale, Ebenezer Baldwin.

The Convention was opened by the Rev. Mr. Lockwood, with a sermon from Jer. 13.16.

The Rev. Mr. Mills was chosen Chairman, and Messrs. Baldwin and Lewis, Scribes.

The session was opened with prayer by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the last Convention were ordered to be read.

The Convention proceeded to make inquiry concerning the appointments made and continued, the last Convention, to gain information respecting the progress and present state of religious liberty in the several colonies.

A full and accurate account respecting the colony of Connecticut was received from the Rev. Mr. Goodrich; also an account of the numbers of Episcopalians and Non-Episcopalians in that colony, sufficiently exact to answer the purposes of this Convention. The body are well pleased with,

and thankfully notice the accuracy and diligence of Mr. Goodrich in this matter: however, if Mr. Goodrich should ever be able to complete his account of the numbers for the remaining towns, with the same accuracy he has those of which he has sent a particular account, it is desired he would send them to be added to the amount already received.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning, to meet at Mr. Tennent's. Concluded with prayer.

Sept. 7, 1775.

Sept. 7: met according to adjournment. U. P. P. S. Q. S. The Minutes of the last session were read. The appointment of Mr. Halsey and Mr. Baldwin for the province of New Hampshire is continued, and Mr. Huntington is joined with them.

Mr. Ross acquainted this body that he had applied to Dr. Stiles, of Newport, for materials respecting Rhode Island—that he had received intelligence from the Doctor, that he had made considerable progress in his collection, but by reason of sickness and other difficulties, had been unable to complete it.

Mr. Ross' appointment is continued, and he is desired to acquaint Dr. Stiles, that this body thankfully notice his assiduity in this matter, and desire he would perfect as soon as he conveniently can, the collection he has begun. Mr. Sproat's appointment for Pennsylvania is continued, and Dr. Duffield is joined with him.

Whereas no returns have been made from the Rev. Messrs. Montgomery, Caldwell, Allison, Rodgers and McWhorter, their respective appointments are continued; and they are desired to render their accounts as complete as possible by the next Convention. The Rev. Dr. Welles is desired to acquaint the above mentioned gentlemen, who are absent, of the continuance of their appointments, also by reason of the critical situation New York is in at present, to request of Dr. Rodgers, that he would transmit to Dr. Welles the several papers in his hands belonging to this Convention.

The Convention are of opinion that it would be conducive to their general design, to obtain, in addition to their history of the rise and progress of religious liberty in the several colonies, accounts of the rise, progress and present state of the several religious sects in the different provinces and colonies.

Accordingly the Rev. Dr. Welles is appointed to furnish such an account of the Episcopalians in New England; the Rev. Mr. Huntington of the Separatists and Separate Baptists also, so far as their histories are connected together; the Rev. Mr. Ross of the Baptists through the several colonies; Mr. Baldwin of the Glassites or Sandemanians; the Rev. Mr. Johnson of Lyme, of the Rogereens; the Rev. Mr. Hinsdale of the Quakers in New England; the Rev. Mr. Halsey of the Quakers to the southward of New England; the Rev. Mr. Duffield of the Moravians; the Rev. Mr. Cooper of the Menists or Menonists; the Rev. Mr. Robert Smith, of Pequea, of the Mountainmen, Covenanters and Seceders; the Rev. Dr. Rodgers of the Jews. Appointments for the other sects are deferred to the next Convention.

The Chairman is desired to notify the several gentlemen above mentioned, who are not present, of their appointments.

The gentlemen appointed to furnish accounts of the rise, &c., of religious liberty in the several colonies, are desired to add to their accounts the state of the several Colleges or seminaries of learning, in the respective colonies, as in the Minutes of the last Convention.

The next meeting of the General Convention is appointed to be at Elizabethtown, on Wednesday, the 19th of Sept., 1776.

Concluded with prayer.

NOTE.—See for the termination of the Convention, pp. 14, 16.

RELIGIOUS EXHIBIT OF THE POPULATION OF CONNECTICUT IN 1774.

BY REV. ELIZUR GOODRICH, D. D.

An Account of the number of Inhabitants in the Colony of Connecticut, Jan. 1, 1774; and an Estimate of the Proportion of Episcopalians to Non-Episcopalians in the same.

COUNTY OF HARTFORD.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Bolton,			994	994
Chatham,		80	2289	2369
East Haddam,		88	2655	2743
Enfield,			1353	1353
Farmington,		244	5719	5963
Glastenbury,			1992	1992
Haddam,		23	1690	1713
Hartford,		111	4770	4881
Simsbury,		914	2757	3671
Somers,			1024	1024
Suffield,			1980	1980
Tolland,		5	1242	1247
Wethersfield,		6	3341	3347
Willington,			1000	1000
Colchester,				3057
East Windsor,				2961
Hebron,				2285
Middletown,				4680
Stafford,				1333
Windsor,				2082
1 to 22	Total	1471	32806	50675

COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
New Haven,		942	7080	8022
Branford,		86	1852	1938
Derby,		725	1094	1819
Durham,		6	1025	1031
Guilford,		213	2633	2846
Milford,		153	1812	1965
Wallingford,		626	4151	4777
Waterbury,				3498
1 to 7	Total	2751	19647	25896

COUNTY OF NEW LONDON.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Preston,		221	2034	2255
Groton,		222	3266	3488
Killingworth,		68	1889	1957
Stonington,		32	4924	4956
Saybrook,		33	2595	2628
New London,				5366
Norwich,				7032
Lyme,				3860
1 to 25	Total	596	14708	31542

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Danbury,		420	2053	2473
Greenwich,		443	2211	2654
New Fairfield,		87	1201	1288
Newtown,		1084	1084	2168
Norwalk,		792	3451	4243
Redding,		478	711	1189
Ridgefield,		329	1344	1673
Stamford,		710	2793	3503
Fairfield,				4544
Stratford,				5201
10 to 34	Total	4343	14848	28936

COUNTY OF WINDHAM.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Coventry,		11	2021	2032
Pomfret,		55	2186	2241
Killingly,		30	3409	3439
Lebanon,		36	3805	3841
Mansfield,		12	2431	2443
Plainfield,			1479	1479
Voluntown,		6	1470	1476
Union,			512	512
Canterbury,				2392
Ashford,				2228
Windham,				3437
Woodstock,				1974
1 to 115	Total	150	17313	27494

COUNTY OF LITCHFIELD.

Towns.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Litchfield,		191	1318	1509
Canaan,		91	1482	1573
Cornwall,		53	904	957
Hartland,		49	451	500
New Hartford,		25	960	985
Norfolk,		38	928	966
Salisbury,		91	1845	1936
Sharon,		83	1903	1986
Torrington,		31	812	843
Barkhamsted,				250
Colebrook,				150
Goshen,				1098
Harwinton,				1015
Kent,				1922
New Milford,				2742
Westmoreland,				1922
Winchester,				327
Woodbury,				5224
1 to 16	Total	655	10600	25944

As far as the accounts have been sent, the estimate of Episcopalians, &c., stands thus:

Counties.		Epis.	Non-Epis.	Total.
Hartford County		1471	32806	50675
New Haven do		2751	19647	25896
New London do		596	14708	31542
Fairfield do		4343	14848	28936
Windham do		150	17313	27494
Litchfield do		655	10542	25944
	Total	9966	119922	190487

which gives 1 Episcopalian to 12 Non-Episcopalians nearly, or makes the Episcopalians about 1 in 13 of the whole number of inhabitants; and probably there would be no great difference from this proportion were the account of all the towns come in, which I hope soon to gain.

Elizur Goodrich

Durham, Sept. 5, A. D. 1774

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